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THURSDAY, MAY 7TH, 2009

Regional AM calls for calming measures on Vale road where the locals say HGVs 'belt along'

AN Assembly Member has called for traffic calming measures on the road that runs through the village of Llysworney, following a serious collision which took place a fortnight ago.

The collision involved an HGV and a car, and a pregnant 35-year-old woman was cut free from the car – mercifully with superficial injuries.

Last Friday, Alun Cairns AM discussed the hazards of driving through the village with local Vale councillor Ray Thomas, resident Mike Tough and the owner of the local garage Chris Ball.

Mr Tough said: "I have been a resident for more than 20 years and the volume of traffic is so high compared to what it was then.

"The increase corresponds to the development of the Llandow Trading Estate, which is a major employer in the area. The estate has grown hugely over the years.

"For a few minutes, you can hear the birds singing, then all of a sudden you get a batch of traffic thundering through, many of them heavy goods vehicles.

"At certain points, the lane is so narrow vehicles brush the hedges and damage the walls. You daren't walk the lanes, and I wouldn't even walk to the pub, which is 200 yards from my house. I'd take the car."

He said there had been no end of accidents on the road; a neighbour was constantly losing slates from an outbuilding roof because lorries were driven so close to the hedges; and on one occasion he'd heard a loud bang and screams.

He ran down the road to find a Volvo had gone straight through a fence and ended up in a field!

Mr Tough recalled that a number of years ago a television programme had highlighted the dangers of lorries pounding along the road, and villagers had marched in protest, but still the problem remained.

ABOVE: Last Friday, Alun Cairns AM, Mike Tough and Coun Ray Thomas took their lives in their hands as they discussed the traffic problems suffered by the village of Llysworney.

Coun Thomas said: "It is a horrible bit of road from Nash Corner to Llysworney, and then out of the village to the A48 with so many bends – it's just not made for articulated vehicles."

Villagers say the 30mph speed limit in the village is often broken.

Garage owner Chris Ball told Mr Cairns: "The lorries are far too big to drive along the road; they've got automatic transmissions and come belting up here."

Many people see a by-pass as a solution to the problem, but Mr Cairns pointed out that with funding in short supply, that was unlikely to happen for a number of years.

He said: "We have to look at what traffic calming measures would work.

"A highways engineer needs to come out to Llysworney to talk to the community and explain what is and is not possible."

Mr Cairns and Coun Thomas plan to put in a request to the Vale Council for a highways engineer to assess the road to see how the problems can be eased.

NEW HEAD WANTS Y BONT FAEN TO BE A 'BEACON OF EDUCATION'

THE man appointed as the new head of Y Bont Faen Primary school has been in Cowbridge to meet staff and governors.

Meic Griffiths, currently deputy head of Over Monnow Primary School, Monmouth, said that he was taking over a school that was in good heart.

"I am really looking forward to moving to the school in September. Cowbridge is a lovely town and the school is at the heart of the community.

"It had a good inspection and I want to take it forward and build on the good work that has been done," he commented.

Mr Griffiths comes originally from Ebbw Vale, but lived and worked in north Wales for a number of years before moving back south. He now lives in Aberdare.

Mr Griffiths is a second language Welsh speaker, who completed a degree in Welsh at Bangor. He hopes to be able to boost the teaching of Welsh at the school.

"The children are absolutely beautiful and the staff are very motivated. I understand that the school also has very supportive parents," he added.

Mr Griffiths said his aim was to make Y Bont Faen a beacon for education in the town, and he hopes to work closely with the neighbouring Welsh medium school Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg.

The new headteacher is musical, and plays the harp.–"Not just the Welsh harp!".

He added: "I think the Vale is a really beautiful place to live and bring up children and I am very excited at the prospect of working here."

ABOVE: Meic Griffiths, the new head of Y Bont Faen school.

Mr Griffiths, aged 37, hopes to hit the ground running when he takes over in the autumn.

Cowbridge looks for good citizens!

COWBRIDGE Town Council is looking for nominations for this year's 'Award for Good Citizenship'.

The award is made to acknowledge the efforts of groups or individuals who make a voluntary contribution to life in the community, and has been presented in each of the last six years.

To be eligible for nomination, a group or individual needs to either live within the area served by the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, or do voluntary work in that area.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the town clerk's office (Monday to Friday,between 9am - 1pm) and the closing date is May 29.

The presentation of the award will take place during the town Mayor's Civic Sunday (July 12).

CELEBRITY chef, Brian Turner, will be at Leekes' store at Llantrisant on Saturday May 9, between 1pm - 3pm, to help launch its new refurbished kitchen department.

ATTENTION...GENTLEMEN!
We are pleased to announce the long awaited return of highly experienced Men's Hairdresser, Colin Galton in his new and refurbished salon
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Residents say thank you, Billy

AT the start of the Easter weekend, vandals once again targeted the children's playground in Cowbridge.

Paint was poured over all the seats of the roundabout and the adjacent newly-laid turf.

On behalf of many local residents, I would like to commend Billy, our stalwart council employee, who took on the task of restoring the roundabout to its original condition.

His efforts made it possible for our children to enjoy the park for the rest of the holiday.

It is heartening that despite a few mindless individuals, there are still people like Billy, who believe in a job well done.

S Price, Cowbridge

THE DEFENCE ACADEMY – I TOLD YOU SO!

I NOTICE with interest that people have woken up regarding the impact of the Academy.

Too late I fear, concerns on tourism, housing, environment, drainage are all now being brought up.

There was far too much secrecy at the start, with plans only being given to the public when it was ready for submission to the Government.

St Nicholas stopped the A48 trunking, Pendoylan is speaking up about the spoiling of the area for a new road, which is more about St Athan than the airport. Even Wenvoe is speaking out about a road.

Yet in the Vale, a whole new town, almost as big on the map as Penarth, is to be built and hardly a whisper has been heard. The time for consultation should have been at the start with the question 'Do you want it?'

All the relevant information should have been at hand to help people understand the implications, not just a consultation on already submitted plans.

I can understand folks remembering the RAF camp fondly, but it is in no way going to resemble that. It will change the area forever. Forget tourism.

...St Athan and Llantwit Major joined up by a vast expanse of concrete, so I understand, on both sides of the road.

The same voices made the same argument about the Red Dragon hangar. Look what a waste of money that was, and there never were thousands of jobs. At least I don't feel so lonely now!

Vickey Way, Llantwit Major

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Transport in the Vale – it's time to be bold!

I WOULD like to comment on a letter from Mr Knill of Pendoylan, and the statement from Mr Smith MP in The GEM (April 23) on the need for better transport links in the Vale.

Mr Smith states he has been campaigning for 20 years, but why the delay yet again on road links?

Mr Knill is of the opinion that everything is hunky-dory, things should stay the same, and that the statistical argument put forward by Mr Smith is flawed. (All statistical evidence is flawed, take it with a pinch of salt!) I realise there is an organised and vocal number of Pendoylan residents opposed to a link and bypass to the M4 – sending a drip, drip of letters to the newspaper.

How many opponents are in the village?

The implication is that the cost of the road is prohibitive – but in the scheme of things, opening up the western Vale, relieving congestion at Culverhouse Cross, north Barry and Wenvoe, would create jobs in construction at the time of the economic downturn.

This better access will lead to jobs in the future.

Now is the time for bold and imaginative infrastructure improvements, with walkways, cycle paths and landscaping. It could be a great opportunity.

If a vox pop was taken, given the choice of improving a death trap (Five Mile Lane), taking traffic away from schools, bypassing a village, introducing cycleways, landscaping said route and improving the prospects of employment for the future – or leaving things as they are with no plans for the future – I am sure that commonsense and fair play would prevail.

We should grasp sensible change with both hands.

Paul Robertson,
Barry.

Spend cash on improving toilets for beach visitors

A RAISED concrete path through the two muddy pinch points near Millay Mill, Llantwit Major, is much-needed, since it is often very muddy there in both summer and winter.

However, I would rather see the rest of the money spent on traffic calming and toilet improvements.

The speed limit on the road to the beach needs to be restricted to 20 miles per hour; with speed humps from both directions at the three bends – at Rosedew entrance, near the pumphouse and near the bottom kissing gate.

Having spent 35 years in the tourist trade, I know the importance of adequate and clean toilets to the visiting public.

In the gents, and presumably in the ladies, there is just one cubicle for all the hundreds of visitors that may be at the beach on a sunny summer weekend.

How many people would re-visit or recommend a hotel that has good food, great service fantastic views – but inadequate and dirty toilets?

Perhaps an additional toilet block could be built which could be closed during the winter and opened from April to October.

Also, if there is enough money, a member of staff for weekend afternoons to clean and lock the toilets at a sensible time – and not far too early, as happens at present.

SR George,
Llantwit Major

Council and the kissing gates

I WRITE regarding GEM correspondence over recent weeks concerning the 'kissing gates' at either end of the first meadow in Cwm Colhugh.

I was very surprised by Coun Austin's recent letter, in which he said time and effort should have been given to repairing the existing gates or manufacturing replica gates.

Despite being a town councillor, he seems to miss the fact that Llantwit Major Town Council has, for quite a considerable time, been requesting that the access to this footpath be improved.

This was because of numerous requests from local residents and visitors alike complaining that people with pushchairs and wheelchairs were unable to negotiate the 'kissing gates'.

After many requests to improve the access, the Vale Council 'Rights of Way' officer announced in a Town Council Footpaths forum meeting held on July 7 last year, that the kissing gates would be replaced with ones allowing easier access.

While I must agree with Coun Austin's comment regarding the concrete approach which has a step which surely defeats the object of easier access, I am surprised at his observation about a small group of people who give no thought or valid discussion to the replacing of these kissing gates.

Does he mean the town council, of which he is member – as they were the prime movers over the years in getting these gates changed?

Michael Lewis,
Llantwit Major

More local points of view on page 7.

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HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 14)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	06.19	14.0	18.38	14.0
08 Fri	07.05	14.1	19.19	14.2
09 Sat	07.45	14.1	19.59	14.4
10 Sun	08.17	14.1	20.41	14.2
11 Mon	08.59	14.0	21.17	14.0
12 Tues	09.34	13.9	21.44	13.8
13 Wed	10.08	13.4	22.22	13.4
14 Thur	10.41	13.0	22.57	12.9

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0800 800500.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

Citizens Advice: At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Office opening times vary throughout the week.Telephone 0845 120 3756 between 10am and noon for details). Further information on www.adviceguide.org.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999. **Gas** - Gas emergency number 0800 111999. Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130. Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 709105. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline - 02920 673000.

To report a fly tipping incident - 02920 673000.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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'Beware these camping trips' – parents warned

These pictures highlight the mess youngsters have been leaving behind on their camping trips.

A MOTHER of teenage children has warned other parents in Cowbridge to be on their guard if their children go camping locally.

The woman, who does not want to be named, said that she wants to raise awareness among local parents of what goes on during these camping trips.

"The youngsters are usually boys aged 14-16 and they camp on farmland around the town.

"Weekends and school holidays are the most popular times," she pointed out.

The woman said that the expeditions have nothing to do with copying survival expert Ray Mears – and everything to do with underage drinking and smoking cannabis.

Apart from that, she claims that they always leave rubbish behind including, on one occasion, two tents and an airbed plus pillows.

"There's always broken glass, plastic bags, cans and other litter. I collect this up myself because of the risks these items pose to the animals grazing in these fields.

"If your child says he or she is going camping, or claims to be staying with a friend, involve yourself in the details of the arrangements.

"Be assured, cannabis is always present and the amount of alcohol consumed is alarming."

She said that parents must speak to their children if they intend to go camping and impress on them the need to bring home all their litter.

The woman pointed out that in the past she has had to collect a Tesco shopping trolley and beer keg from the field behind her home – and on one occasion, an old settee was dragged there and then set on fire.

She added: "Parents may think that what's going on is innocent but it could so easily end in tragedy, especially as fires are lit and aerosol cans thrown on them."

Police told The GEM that they had received no complaints about the antics of young people camping out over Easter, but they said that if there are concerns, they should be contacted.

New president of Vale Show chosen for 2009

FOLLOWING its annual general meeting at the Bear Hotel last week, the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society revealed that Mrs Mary Thomas of Dros Y Mor Farm is its show president for 2009.

She was nominated by Robert Thomas, who has known her since school days. He said that the society owed her a great deal as she had been involved with the society since his father was secretary.

She has been secretary and involved in the organisation of the reception and president's lunch for many years.

It has been quite a family affair for Mary, as her late husband, Mervyn, was also president and her daughter Jane is the treasurer of the society.

Keith Gibson, who has worked on the show field for more than 10 years, was nominated as vice-president, along with the Mayor of Cowbridge and Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

It is hoped that the sun will shine on this year's show on August 19.

Preparation is well under way, with schedules due to be printed in the next couple of weeks.

Should anyone be interested in sponsorship opportunities or trade space, contact the secretary on 01446 710099 or email vale.show@btinternet.com

RIGHT: *Mary Thomas receiving the badge of office from outgoing president John Arnott.*

Open tennis

ON Saturday, May 16, Cowbridge Tennis Club will be holding its annual open day.

It starts at 10am for juniors, and adults from 2pm. There will be a barbecue and refreshments. Non members welcome. *For further details, see the club noticeboard.*

Green Drinks

THERE will be Green Drinks at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, on Tuesday, May 12 (6.30--9.30pm).

Join a worldwide network to chat and share information on eco and environmental issues. All welcome. *www.greendrinks.org.*

Gardening fayre

COYCHURCH Gardening Society spring fayre will be held on Saturday, May 16 (2pm-4pm), at the Williams Memorial Hall.

Stalls include plants, homemade jams and pickles and ornamental garden labels,

Cowbridge and Llanblethian pupils study in times gone by

ABOVE:
Llanblethian School (now Ysgol Iolo Morganwg) in the mid-1920s. (Picture enhanced by Dr E Cloutman).

THIS charming picture shows Llanblethian Primary School in the mid-1920s.

It is part of a family archive brought to the Cowbridge Local History Study Room by Mr Jim Warren, whose family used to live in Greenfield and Cusop, and who now lives in Porthcawl.

Luke Millar of the history society told The GEM: "Readers will recognise the Victorian buildings as those of the present-day Welsh Primary School on Broadway."

In the photograph, the class seems to have moved out of doors on a fine day, so we see the little pupils, aged about five years, with all the school furniture and equipment around them.

Between the standing abacus on the right, and the black-board with copper-plate writing on the left, are special low tables and little armchairs for the pupils, and on the tables and ground, various sets of shapes and blocks.

The children appear to be holding slates with cloth stitched round them.

Luke said: "We hope very much that some of our senior citizens may recall these teaching aids, and be able to tell us something about them.

"Also, it is very possible that some of those pupils may still be among us. If so, it would be marvellous to hear from them or about them."

He continued: "This piece is just one example of the many fascinating things which turn up in the new LH study room, where Betty Alden and fellow enthusiasts are carrying on Jeff Alden's pioneering local history work.

"We hope that other people in Cowbridge also have family archives (pictures, letters, documents of all sorts) which they would like to share with us, too."

Contact can be made by phone to Betty Alden (01446 773373), or to Luke Millar (01446 773528, or e-mail lmillar@uwclub.net), or best of all by calling in to the Local History Study Room in Old Hall, Cowbridge, any Wednesday between 10am-1pm.

Irish night

THERE will be an Irish night in Llancarfan village hall on Saturday, May 30, in aid of the St Cadoc's wall paintings appeal.

Traditional Irish music and food. *Tickets are available from K Brain on 01446 781080.*

Art society AGM

THE Cowbridge Art Society meets on May 14, at 7pm, in Old Hall, High Street, for the AGM, followed by a social evening.

Please bring refreshments and own drinks. Non-members are welcome to attend.

Village Link

THE meeting of the Village Link, which took place on Thursday, April 30, was very well-attended.

The speaker, Mr Peter Shaw, gave a harrowing account of his months of captivity after being kidnapped in Georgia.

He brought along copies of the book which he has written outlining his experience, and what a fascinating read it is.

I would urge readers of The GEM to do the same. The title is *Hole – Kidnapped in Georgia*.

COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Greetings

THE Young At Heart Club has sent a get well message to Mrs Vera Jones, who has been unable to attend meetings during the past two weeks.

Congratulations to club member Mrs Gwen David, who celebrated her 87th birthday recently.

Why not visit Cowbridge 'House of Correction'?

READERS of The GEM will have read recently about the new exhibition of the history of Cowbridge in one of the old 'House of Correction' cells at Cowbridge museum in the Town Hall.

Why not come and see what there is in the other cells too?

Cell One deals with crime and punishment.

A picture of a ducking stool and birch whips, remind us of the violent face of justice in the past, and you can read an account of notable Cowbridge hangings, the last in 1787, before the original prison was replaced by the present House of Correction building in 1806.

Life for the prisoner confined in such a small cell is graphically illustrated, but there are also memorabilia of local police officers, including a presentation truncheon, and an account of the part they played in important local events.

Police work would have been helped by the 'Peeler's lamp' and by the original fingerprint enlarger in this cell.

You might like to try and decide what two ancient hoists discovered in the Town Hall were used for – a very peculiar punishment or something entirely innocent?

This cell also contains a time capsule buried at the time of the Millennium.

The museum is open on the first Saturday of the month, between 11am-4pm.

New volunteers to help in the museum are always welcome.

DAVID PIERCE

The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.
Proverbs Ch 13 V 9 *(Cowbridge Christian Fellowship).*

IN A STAND-OFF BETWEEN HGV AND A VALE LANE... GUESS WHICH OF THE TWO CAME OUT ON TOP?

THE dangers of large lorries travelling along the Vale's country lanes was illustrated in Aberthin on Friday, May 1, when one had to be pulled free from a small river.

The articulated vehicle was travelling along Llanquian Road in the direction of the Tim Vaughan Racing Stables when it began slipping down the bank.

The drama happened in the morning, and it took five hours for a rescue vehicle to get it back on the lane.

One Aberthin resident said: "I think this is an instance of a sat nav being used – because the normal access to the stables is via the A48."

ABOVE:
An illustration that heavy goods vehicles and the Vale's narrow lanes do not mix – this lorry got stuck on Llanquian Road, Aberthin.

Y Bont Faen 'young ones' celebrate WI 20th anniversary...

The nine founder members of Y Bont Faen WI (seated, and first five left to right standing), are pictured with current members of the group.

PHOTO by MIKE WILCOCK

THE Women's Institute has tried hard in recent years to shake off its 'slightly elderly' image – and Y Bont Faen WI think that they prove the point!

The group is celebrating 20 years together, and the founder members point out that they first got together when their young children were in school.

So, far from being retired ladies getting together for whist, flower arranging, jam-making and the occasional nude calendar, they were all young working mothers who got together to talk about the stresses and strains of modern life.

Meetings wanted to get away from the usual school run chat about work and school.

Since then, the group has met twice monthly for a wide variety of social meetings (usually involving food or drink) and also a formal meeting.

A group spokeswoman said: "We have received great help and encouragement from WI officers over the years, and we are indebted to our first committee, several of whom are still members.

"New members are always welcome, and we look forward to our silver anniversary!"

Anyone intersted in joining Y Bont Faen WI should telephone Jean Lloyd on 01446 774311.

Cowbridge RFC under-14s go west to take Sevens title in Burry Port

WITH important fixtures later in the month, Cowbridge RFC under-14s were desperately looking for a fixture for last Sunday to keep themselves match fit, and to continue their impressive run of victories.

Although they were not able to find a 15-a-side fixture, they managed at the last moment to enter two teams into the Burry Port seven-a-side tournament.

First to play were the B team, and despite some brave play they lost their opening game to a confident Ystradgynlais side. Within minutes of the start, the boys had lost three players to injury, and it was down to the hard work of physio Andrea Stock that two of them managed to play in the next game against tournament favourites and hosts Burry Port.

Although they conceded an early try, the B team fought back to level the scores with prop Ken Rogers in outstanding form as he scattered defenders like nine-pins.

As usual, Charley Morris and Lewis Llewelyn tackled like men possessed, and the side-stepping skills of Freddie Harries and Hari Trotman kept the home side on the back foot.

A further try from Rogers saw both teams go into the interval two tries apiece.

The second half saw Burry Port press home their pace advantage out wide and they secured the game with a further two scores.

The final B team game was against Newcastle Emlyn, and by now the boys were down to just seven fit players. Their ploy of keeping the ball in the forwards did cause their opponents problems, but it was not long before the boys had conceded the first try.

The collective will of the boys to give the opposition a hard time ensured that they lost by a respectable score, and the bravery of players like Sean Boga Lake, who played on despite nursing a bruised collar-bone, won them many admirers.

The A team kicked off their tournament with a resounding win over Llangennech, tries coming from Christian Walters, Hari Hitchcock, Gus MacPherson, and Rhys Griffin.

The second game against Felinfoel saw another big win with tries from Tom Murray, Walters, Hitchcock, and Griffin. The A team had by now booked their place in the semi-finals, and the chance to avenge the B Team's defeat at the hands of Newcastle Emlyn.

The one-way traffic of the pool games was repeated, as tries were run in from all angles of the pitch. Prominent in the forward exchanges were Matt Goodlad, Ollie Hitchings and Evan Phillips, and as usual the deadly finishing of Walters and Hitchcock was too much for their opponents.

One deft touch from Sam Roberts summed up the difference in skills between the sides, when his perfectly placed kick bounced favourably for Walters to collect on the full and race over to open the scoring.

The final was between what most observers believed to be the best two sides in the tournament, Cowbridge A and hosts Burry Port.

It was a rematch of their classic under-12s encounter at the same stage which saw Burry Port win in extra time with a golden try, and a large partisan crowd gathered hoping for a repeat victory.

However, it was not long before the first Cowbridge try was scored as Griffin scythed through a gap, and even though the home side capitalised on some Cowbridge confusion to score an equaliser, the lead was restored with another Walters try, only for the hosts to pull back with a good try of their own to level the first half.

The second half eventually saw the Cowbridge side establish a dominance they never looked like losing, and further tries were scored by Jack Haines, and another by Walters.

The run-out will hopefully have stood them in good stead for their Blues Cup semi-final against Pontypridd next Sunday.

ABOVE: Hari Hitchcock scoring against Burry Port.

ABOVE: Jack Haines scoring against Newcastle Emlyn.

HAVE YOU SEEN PERO THE NURSERY'S TOY DOG?

HEARTBROKEN youngsters who attend a Cowbridge nursery have appealed to GEM readers to help track down Pero the toy dog.

Pero did a disappearing act on a trip to the cinema.

The nursery unit class from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge love Pero, who enjoys going home with a lucky pupil each week for adventures which are photographed and written up and put in a scrapbook.

Pupil Gabriel Lilford, age four, of Llantwit Major, was very excited to have his turn over the bank holiday weekend and decided to take Pero on his first ever trip to the cinema – which is where disaster struck.

Pero mysteriously disappeared from Gabriel's bag in the Odeon cinema in Cardiff Bay during the film on the afternoon of Monday, May 5.

A nursery spokeswoman said: "Gabriel is feeling very upset and is hopeful that readers may be able to reunite the class with their little friend.

"We hope that someone is looking after Pero somewhere and that they can get him back to us safely."

If you can help please phone The GEM, you'll cheer up one little four-year-old boy and all his classmates!

Woosnam is heading for Royal Porthcawl

WELSH golf legend Ian Woosnam is set to return to Wales in June for his only competitive golf tournament on home soil, for the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club between June 19-21.

Having made his debut on the European Senior Tour last year alongside Sandy Lyle, Woosie is looking forward to the event which promises to be one of the highlights in the 2009 golfing calendar, just as it was last year when, Conwy, another challenging links course, was the host venue.

Ian Woosnam said: "Royal Porthcawl fully deserves its reputation as one of the very best links courses in the world.

"It's possibly unique in that the sea is in full view from every hole, and when the wind gets up it is a real challenge.

"Not only is it a great course to play but the scenery makes it a fabulous venue for spectators, so I would urge everyone to take the opportunity to watch professional golf on this top links course."

The Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open is one of the most prestigious tournaments on The European Senior Tour and, in recent years, has attracted some of golf's great champions.

This year is no different, with an impressive line up that is expected to include Gordon J Brand, Tony Johnstone, Carl Mason, Ryder Cup stars Costantino Rocca and Mark James, and defending champion, Peter Mitchell.

Last year Sandy Lyle led in Conwy after the first round with 69 but it was Englishman Mitchell who denied Woosnam a popular home victory by finishing two shots clear to clinch his maiden European Senior Tour title and the biggest pay cheque of his career.

With a prize fund of £500,000 and a first prize of £75,000, the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open is the second most lucrative event on The European Senior Tour.

For more information about the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open, visit www.rydercup-wales2010.com or contact 029 2092 3951

'Come dine with us' invite to join fun-loving foodies!

TWO Vale women are borrowing the concept from a Channel 4 cookery show to start up 'Come Dine With Me' groups in Llantwit Major and Cowbridge.

In the television show, a group of strangers take it in turns to throw a dinner party, with marks awarded to determine 'the king or queen of the dinner party'.

As Pat McCarthy explained, the Vale versions are for fun and sociability only.

"Once a month people who take part would join up with a group of six people.

"The idea is that people take turns to be responsible for cooking a starter, main course or dessert, and would host and move around for each of the three courses.

"The evening would culminate with all the groups meeting up for a drink at a local hostelry to share their gastronomic adventures with one another.

"The theme is already up and running successfully in Ystradowen, and now we want to launch groups in Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

"You don't need to be qualified or skilled in any way to join in, neither do you need a partner.

"You just need to enjoy cooking and having time out with fun-loving foodies!"

For further details, call Cheryl Bass on 07974 762601 for Cowbridge, and Pat McCarthy on 07518 067741 for Llantwit Major.

ABOVE:
Pat and Cheryl are looking for people who enjoy cooking to join groups in Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

A TRIBUTE

Mr Arthur Davies, Llangan

FAMILY, friends and neighbours attended the funeral of Mr Arthur Davies (aged 73) which took place at the Mid Glamorgan Crematorium, Coychurch on April 30.

Mr Davies was a much-respected neighbour in Llangan, where he had lived with his wife and children for 40 years.

Arthur was well-known in the farming community due to his expertise in the maintenance of farm machinery.

Arthur and Doreen met in the village of Brynmenyn, Arthur's birthplace. They married in Nolton Church, Bridgend, 53 years' ago.

Special thanks are extended by Doreen to Arthur's friend, Mr Basil George, for his moving tribute at the funeral service – and also to the officiating minister, Rev D Lloyd.

Our thoughts at this very sad time are with Doreen, their daughters Lynne and Alison, and their families.

NANCY DAVIDGE

British Legion open day in Cowbridge

THE COWBRIDGE branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding a special open day in Lesser Hall, Town Hall, between 11am-3pm tomorrow (Friday, May 8) inviting residents in the area to go along to find out more about the work of the Legion.

"The event will give individuals the opportunity to find out more about the charity and chat with current members of the local branch and staff," said branch chairman, Hadrian Evans.

For further information, contact: Aerona Stooke on 02920 346942.

Llandow bike ride for charity

YOUNG cyclists from the area will be riding around the Llandow Race Circuit on Sunday, May 10, raising funds for the British Heart Foundation .

It starts at 10am, with groups of Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and other youth organisations, helping the BHF to raise funds from personal sponsorship.

More than £2,000 was raised last year, and every group retained 30 per cent of their sponsorship for their own organisation's funds.

Certificates will be awarded to all participants, and those raising more than £50 by the deadline for entries, September 24, will each be presented with a personal prize according to the amount they have raised.

In addition, the BHF shield will be awarded as a team prize for the team raising the most sponsorship.

Dr Bob Bevington, chairman of the BHF, said that the organisation's research breakthroughs have kept thousands of vulnerable hearts beating.

"But the BHF urgently needs your donation because heart and circulatory disease is more likely to shorten your life than any other serious illness."

KS2 PUPILS GO ON STUDY TOUR OF WELSH ASSEMBLY!

KS2 pupils at Llanfair primary school visited the Welsh Assembly and Cardiff Bay recently. Their visit was organised to help studies about the National Assembly, sculptures and buildings.

Assembly members Jane Hutt, Andrew RT Davies and Chris Franks were there to greet the group, which also included members of the school council.

ABOVE: The AMs meet the schoolchildren at the Senedd.

Video of 'brilliant orbs' in the evening sky has a mystery sting in the tail

A COUPLE from Barry are creating an *'X-Files'* stir with a video they shot last month of mysterious lights in the evening sky above Dow Corning.

Steve and Gill Ryan have no explanation for the strange sight they witnessed as they returned home to the town one night from a visit to their daughter who lives in Caerphilly.

GEM readers can see the couple's video online from 1pm this Friday at *www.Barry-today.co.uk* – and there is a mysterious sting in its tail!

Steve told The GEM: "It was a Wednesday night, just after 8pm, and we were making our way back through Barry.

"We got off the Docks Link road, drove past the Lidl store and went through Cadoxton.

"As we came to the hill, with Victoria Park on your left and the junior school on your right, we saw two brilliant lights in the sky – we knew they couldn't be stars, they were far too big.

"We drove down Vere Street and at the bottom turned left and went under Cadoxton railway bridge."

The couple parked on the far side of the roundabout just through the bridge, on Cardiff Road, and saw the two lights in the sky straight ahead (Dow Corning lights can be seen on the video to the left).

Steve said: "The lights were static in the sky, and then moved slowly. I'd describe them as brilliant orbs."

ABOVE:
At one minute 45 seconds in the video, black objects appear to be ejected from the ball of light in different directions (top right).

Gill quickly got her Samsung mobile phone out to record the sight.

She said: "I put it on maximum zoom and trained it on the lights.

"They definitely were not from an aeroplane or a helicopter. There was no sound and from that distance we would have heard something."

The couple's son Jack, aged five, and granddaughter, Caitlin, aged two, were very excited by the lights, but grandson Kaiden, aged one, slept blissfully through the commotion.

The video lasts about two minutes.

At first the lights are stationary, they then move lower in the sky. One light disappears and then reappears. At one minute 45 seconds into the video, a rather strange thing happens: three black objects seem to be shot out from one of the orbs, the first hundreds of feet into the air!

Steve and Gill don't have a rational explanation, and replaying the image on the computers at The GEM hasn't resolved the mystery.

Can you settle the mustery? If so email us at ggem@internet-today.co.uk

ABOVE:
The two balls of light hover over the evening sky in Barry (Dow Corning is to the left).

News from Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Clubs

Vale Lions at the May Fayre

THE Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions club are now well into their current year of fundraising activities, and were in Porthcawl on Bank Holiday Monday attending May festivities organised by the Porthcawl Lions Club.

Although the day was rather cold and windy, this did not stop the crowds turning up and your local club raised just over £150 to be put into their charity account, which will be distributed to deserving causes.

Fundraising continues this weekend with the Lions holding a book sale outside Lloyds Bank in Llantwit Major starting at 10am on Saturday (May 9).

The Lions will be running their usual burger stall and other attractions at the Llantwit Major Victorian Fayre in June and will also be attending the Vale Show in August.

These events, along with other fundraising activities during the year, not only raise the profile of the Lions in the community but also provide valuable funds for the club so that they can continue to support worthy causes locally, nationally and internationally.

For more information about these events or to find out more about Lions, visit the website at www.llantwitmajorandcowbridgelions.org.uk or telephone 01446 793882.

David Edwards
(President Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club.)

Horse and trap wanted for Victorian fair!

A RENEWED appeal has been made for a horse and trap for the Victorian Fair at Llantwit Major in June.

Janet Moisan of the Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade, who is organising the event, said that she received a phone call following her earlier appeal, but there has been no further contact.

"We need somebody willing to come along for the day to give rides to the children.

"It will also add an authentic Victorian flavour to the proceedings," she explained.

Mrs Moisan said that there were still some slots left for stalls for the fair, which takes place on Saturday, June 20.

"We usually have quite a lot of charity stalls, but it has been slower this year. People seem to be leaving it later before committing themselves.

"I would urge everyone thinking of taking a stall to contact me as soon as possible, otherwise we will have a frantic, last-minute rush."

Other activities include a performance from Stage Door drama group, and other street entertainment.

Anyone who wants a stall, or who can offer a horse and trap, should call her on 01446 795378.

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Vale volunteers thanked at the Mayor's reception

VOLUNTEERS who run 22 Vale community centres have been commended at a special reception hosted by the Mayor, Coun Audrey Preston.

Coun Preston, who invited guests to the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall in Barry, said: "Without these individuals giving up their time to run the centres, a large range of activities would not take place.

"I'd like to thank them all for the huge contribution they have made during the last year, which I know is much appreciated by local residents."

Volunteers from 11 centres were able to attend the reception, including Llancarfan, Colcot in Barry and lower Penarth.

The Vale Council's community development officer, Siân Vaughan, who co-ordinates the volunteers, said: "They all thoroughly deserve recognition for their tremendous hard work.

"Among the volunteers are a couple of excellent husband and wife teams who have shown how rewarding volunteering can be."

ABOVE: The Vale Mayor, Coun Audrey Preston, hosted a reception to recognise the dedication of volunteers who run the county's community centres.

PTA QUIZ

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School PTA quiz night on Friday (May 8) at 7.30pm, will be held at the Bear Hotel in the ballroom and not at Middle School canteen, as previously reported.

Tickets still available from Caroline (01446 792320) or text 07811 192710; email pta@cowbridgecomprehensiveschoo.co.uk.

CHURCH COFFEE

THE Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Barry, is holding a coffee morning on Saturday, May 9, between 10am-12noon; admission £1 to include coffee and biscuits in aid of new hall funds.

There will be a cake stall and bric-a-brac stall.

Vale PACT meetings

DINAS POWYS public meeting, Bethesda Hall, May 11, 7pm.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, leisure centre, May 12, 7pm.

COWBRIDGE coffee and chat meeting, REd Fox, Penllyn, May 13, 10.30am.

ILLTYD PACT public meeting, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, May 14, 7pm.

NEWS FROM 372 BARRY SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

Cadets' annual dining-in night at HMS Cambria

RECENTLY, 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps held their annual dining-in night at *HMS Cambria*.

The evening was the opportunity to formally entertain the guests of the squadron, with all the officers, instructors and cadets attending.

The Cadets and Squadron staff were joined by several guests, including: Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Wing Commander Gareth Chapman (Officer Commanding No 1 Welsh Wing), Mr Doug Provis (a founder Cadet of 372 Squadron in 1941) and Chief Technician Vince Schofield-Downing (Air Cadet Liaison Officer, MOD St Athan).

The Mr Vice on the night was Cadet Eloise Johnson (13), the youngest and newest Cadet on the Squadron.

Eloise's responsibility on the night was to assist the Commanding Officer with the smooth running of the evening and to entertain the guests after dinner.

After dinner, Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards gave an entertaining speech to the Cadets and guests on his close liaison with 372 Squadron over the years; and presented the annual NCO of the Year trophy Cadet Sergeant Gemma Lewis, for her hard work and dedication during the last year.

Flight Lieutenant Dave Crandon, was also presented with a plaque in recognition of his 10 years as Commanding Officer 372 Squadron.

ABOVE: Capt Norman Lloyd-Edwards presenting Sgt Gemma Lewis with NCO of the Year award.

The Cadets thoroughly enjoyed the annual dining-in night, learning about the traditions upheld within the Royal Air Force.

Cadet Carl Chaplin said: "At first I really nervous about the evening and its traditions. It was great fun and I can't wait until next year's dining-in night."

The Cadets are now looking forward to an action-packed and challenging training programme including flying, gliding, shooting, sport, hill craft, Duke of Edinburgh and leadership training, in what promises to be another busy and exciting year ahead.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall), or you can contact the Squadron on 01446 747734, or email 372@air-cadets.org

JASON HORTON

Peterston-super-Ely church stages a music marathon

A VALE church is staging a 12-hour 'music marathon' as part of a nationwide Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) 'Music Sunday'.

Although it is called 'Music Sunday' the event is taking place on Saturday (May 9) when St Peter's Church, Peterston-super-Ely, will be echoing to the sound of various styles of music between 9am – 9pm.

Choosing the programme for the day is James Bull, the musical director at St Peter's Church, who told The GEM:

"We have been invited to be one of the 40 churches or schools across the UK to pilot the RSCM 'Music Sunday' this year.

"In each establishment, special events are being held to enable the church or school to place a special focus on music for one weekend in the year."

He continued: "The RSCM is planning to make Music Sunday an annual national event from 2010 onwards.

"Half the money raised will go towards music resources or projects in the church, and the other 50 per cent will go towards educational courses and other events organised by the RSCM."

During the day in St Peter's Church, there will be organ and piano music, and a number of choirs, including the St Donat's Choir, the Peterston Primary School Choir, and St Peter's own choral group.

Ayre Point, an accoustic band, will perform, as will Tony and Jane Morse, and an early music recorder group.

There will be a choral evensong with the Llandaff Cathedral Girl Choristers, and much more throughout the 12 hours.

The RSCM is a charity which supports church music in all its guises throughout the UK and in many other countries and has more than 8,000 members and 600 volunteers.

Refreshments will be available all day, and admission is £5.

THE VALE ROAD WORKS REPORT

Dock View Road junction with Thompson Street, Barry – temporary traffic signals to allow work on adjacent footbridge over the railway line.

B4267 Penlan Road, Llandough – intermittent temporary traffic signals in use (off peak only) this is to allow water mains refurbishment.

Boverton Road, Llantwit Major – daytime temporary traffic signals near Boverton Brook to allow new electricity cables to be laid, up to May 8.

Church Street, Cowbridge – closed until Friday, May 8, between 9am-3.30pm, for essential highway maintenance.

CAVMS showcase

CARDIFF and Vale Music Service will showcase young talent at St David's Hall on May 10, at 7pm.

The short concert features ensembles playing jazz and rock to classical music.

The compere, local singer Jeff Hooper, will sing with the Big Band and Orchestra.

Tickets on 02920 878444.

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Jane Hutt AM celebrates with MIND in the Vale

SUPPORTER of MIND in the Vale, Jane Hutt, AM, visited the Ty Newydd Resource Centre in Barry to congratulate the committee, staff and users on their work, at a garden party held to celebrate the contribution and life of Albert Nicholls to the development of the garden.

She said: "With the inspiration of Albert Nicholls, a garden was created at the Ty Newydd Resource Centre

"It was enjoyable to join the garden party and thank MIND for their hard work, inspiration and commitment to improving our mental health services, as well as to celebrate the contribution of Albert Nicholls and his life."

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM the committee, staff and users of the MIND in the Vale Ty Newydd Resource Centre.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Gurkhas entitled to our respect...

ALTHOUGH I disagree in general with John Smith MP on a large number of issues, more often than not, I wholly respect his arguments and his right to say them.

However, I feel I had to write to express my disappointment that Mr Smith voted with the government, against the Gurkha soldiers' UK settlement rights in the House of Commons last week.

I believe that this is a non-party issue, as demonstrated by the large number of Labour MPs who voted for the motion.

Surely, there is only one point of principle here; Gurkhas have laid down their lives or been prepared to do so for the sake of our country since 1815.

It is our obligation to treat them with the same respect that they have afforded us.

With hundreds of thousands of immigrants received into the UK annually, the additional numbers required to give the Gurkhas settlement rights would be a tiny fraction.

Alun Cairns AM (Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Vale)

Teachers with more jewellery than Mr T

I read in The GEM on Thursday, April 30, an article headed 'Teachers accused of double standards on dress code'.

In our ever-changing society, obviously nothing has changed... From 1978-1985, I attended a standard comprehensive school in Bridgend.

The uniform was a white shirt and tie in the school's colours, a grey cardigan/jumper and a tunic, grey or white socks, no patterns, 'school' shoes-black.

Boys wore grey trousers; the sixth year wore the shirt and tie, with black jumper/cardigan and black skirt/trousers.

No make-up. Plain studs for pierced ears; one for boys, two for girls.

All long hair was fastened back. Rule breakers were sent home to amend their condition, if they couldn't be tidied up at school. My friend was sent home when she dyed her hair orange.

Some of our teachers wore 'appropriate' clothes. Many opted for very clingy, low-cut, see-through or 'loud' clothes with bright, clashing colour schemes.

One teacher favoured spangles and always looked ready to go night-clubbing.

Several wore enough make-up for the stage and more jewellery than 'Mr T' of *A-Team* fame.

In the sunlight we were quite dazzled...

But we survived and those with stable family lives have gone on to have successful, happy lives.

I think we are all in danger of seeing the past through rose-tinted spectacles.

Forget the 'good old days' - just enjoy the present!

S Cornick, Eglwys Brewis

MP'S ANNUAL 'REPORT' WAS SELF PRAISE

HAVING read the four-page 20th anniversary report by Mr John Smith MP that wrapped The GEM on April 23, my immediate reaction was that it was purely self-assessed, and as a boy I was always told by my teachers that self-praise is no praise at all.

On page four of the report, he addresses a letter to his constituents, the content of which, as far as I am concerned, is completely ambiguous.

While some of his efforts contained in the report are to be commended, Mr Smith wildly exaggerates the facts.

I have no doubt that if every MP were to report to their constituents on every anniversary of their election they could also suggest how good they are, so what was the point in advising the public of his efforts as a Member of Parliament?

Does he seriously suggest that he has personally written to tens of thousands of young people, or is it one letter photocopied for all, thus taking the personal touch out of it?

I am not sure what tens of thousands mean. Does it mean as many as 20,000? If so that is almost three letters written each day for 20 years! I can only ask when is he going to write to me?

What disappointed me about his report was that it was all allegedly positive. However, he was careful not to mention that he voted against giving the 306 First World War British soldiers who were executed allegedly for desertion and/or cowardice, a full pardon, even though a large number of them were suffering from shell-shock and not responsible for their actions.

Although his 20-year publication came before the recent Gurkha debate, it is pertinent to point out that Mr Smith voted with the Government, thus denying those brave Gurkhas, who have fought for and served this country with distinction, the right to live here. Fortunately, the Government was defeated in this vote.

Mr Smith desires the construction of the Defence Academy, for employment, but really it will be a training base used in the art of killing other humans.

I have asked Mr Smith via his constituency office at Barry if the cost of the 20-year anniversary report was paid out of public funds. I am still waiting for an answer.

FMD Knill, Pendoylan

Thank you to Gerald

I write concerning last week's GEM story about the refurbishment of the staircase to the tower in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major.

That refurbishment was made possible by the initial bequest of £5,000 from the late Lieutenant Commander Gerald Pigeon RN (ret'd).

Bellringers at St Illtud's will always be aware of this most generous gift.

Once more they can feel safe.

Bill Price (Bellringer)

Fighting for the community

I WOULD like to respond to Liz Hayes' impassioned plea in The GEM on April 30 for shop spaces to be made available in Llantwit for community projects.

This is exactly what the transition initiative wants to see and we can only give our wholehearted support to Liz and the groups she talks about, the craftspeople and the growers.

I sincerely hope that Llantwit and Cowbridge support these skills and will find the opportunity to pass them down the generations; so that we can build some resilience in our communities in the face of the challenges ahead – that come from climate change and our descent from peak oil.

I would urge your readers to contact the Llantwit Transition movement for more details at *transition.llantwit@googlemail.com*

Rob McGhee, Cowbridge

Please breathe some new life into Cadoxton House

I LIVE near Cadoxton House, and wanted to write in response to the piece in last week's GEM concerning the recent fire there.

As depressing as it was to see the building burning yet again, the fire was entirely predictable and almost certainly preventable.

I'd echo the views of local people expressed in The GEM that the council's abandonment of Cadoxton House in 2005 – and the state it has since been allowed to fall into – has been utterly shameful!

The fact that it is now associated with so many problems is hardly surprising and these will continue until the building is restored to a decent condition and taken back into regular use.

I've written to council officials a number of times, askeing what plans there may be for the site, and have repeatedly pointed out that the only people finding a use for the building and grounds these days seem to be vandals, fly-tippers and arsonists.

Perhaps now, at last, something positive may be done.

Cadoxton House was originally bequeathed to the council to be used by the local community, and until a few years ago it did this brilliantly as a popular and lively arts centre.

The centre provided a range of activities for adults and young people, and its closure was a great loss.

Early proposals to reopen the building as an arts centre were unsuccessful, though

The GEM article notes that plans are now being taken forward to redevelop the site as a multi-agency 'one-stop shop', providing advice and support to people experiencing domestic violence or problems with drugs or alcohol.

This is an exciting proposal, and one which could see Cadoxton House transformed from its current state of burned-out dilapidation into an important new service, restoring the whole area and bringing benefits to the community.

Other people will have their own opinions as to what it should be used for, but the community is anxious that something positive happens to it.

Let us hope that this can be done without further delay.

Carl Chapple, Cadoxton

Vale MP backs campaign to allow the Gurkha soldiers to settle in UK

VALE MP, Mr John Smith, was one of 75 MPs who signed a parliamentary Early Day Motion calling on the Government to bring forward a new ruling on the rights of former Gurkha soldiers to settle in the UK.

The motion described guidelines announced by the Home Office as morally wrong and offensive to former Gurkha soldiers.

The MP said that Gurkhas have been campaigning for equal treatment with other Commonwealth soldiers who are entitled to settle in the UK at the end of their period of service.

Currently, only Gurkhas discharged from the British Army after 1997 are entitled to settlement rights. They also receive substantially less in wages and pensions than soldiers in other British regiments.

Mr Smith, who is a member of an all-Party parliamentary group on Gurkha rights, and sits on the Commons' Defence Select Committee commented: "This is a matter of principle. I believe that the Government's new guidelines have severely let down the Gurkhas.

"The Gurkhas are known as 'the bravest of the brave', serving in some of the most dangerous conflicts in the world on behalf of the country.

"Treating these brave soldiers as second class servicemen is fundamentally wrong. We owe them a tremendous debt and they must be given equal and fair treatment.

"I, and the other members of the all-party parliamentary group on Gurkha rights, will continue to raise the issue of equal rights for all Gurkhas in Parliament," he vowed.

LEFT:
John Smith MP with a delegation of Gurkha soldiers and Labour MPs supporting their campaign.

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'UNDULATING' WALK LOOKS AT THE FASCINATING INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF THE CYNON VALLEY

RECENTLY, 12 ramblers joined leader Geraint Thomas and his trusty sheepdog Patch on a trip up to the Cynon Valley.

They started from Abercynon, which lies around 15 miles north of Cardiff at the confluence of the Rivers Taff and Cynon.

Abercynon made history as it was the terminus for the world's first steam railway journey on February 21, 1804, when the inventor Richard Trevithick drove a steam locomotive hauling iron and passengers from the Penydarren ironworks at Merthyr Tydfil to the basin of the Glamorganshire canal at Abercynon.

Abercynon was also famous as it had two railway stations, one on the Cardiff to Aberdare line and the other on the Cardiff to Merthyr Tydfil line. The former was shut down in 2008 and now only one station serves the community.

Another interesting fact is that the Thorn Hotel in Aberdare was used by Welsh singer Tom Jones to practise before he became famous.

Taking the footbridge over the railway line, they began to climb the steep-sided valley past the cemetery and into a wood.

The use of the word 'up' was totally banned, as was taking breathers along the climb, a new word of 'undulating' made the climbing part seem much easier!

Crossing to the next valley, the group came across an isolated farmhouse with an unusual tybach (or small house - meaning toilet).

The wooden plank seat had not one, but two holes with no dividing partitions – so in fact, two users could chat at the same time, or read the same newspaper before putting it to its final use.

Needless to say, the group definitely decided not to use this particular facility!

Going downhill once more, they reached the Nant Clydach River, a small tributary of the major River Taff, but following beside the gurgling waters along the narrow, wooded valley was definitely the highlight of the walk.

Then it was time to think about climbing once more. Having crossed the river, a track led uphill beside forestry and woodland to the top of the valley where the group were rewarded with superb open views of the surrounding countryside.

After undulating for a while, the group took their final downhill walk to return once more to Abercynon for the welcome journey back home.

On May 9, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a 12-mile mod/hard walk from Penmaen through garlic covered woods on south Gower; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On May 10, the Maesteg Ramblers are hosting the Area Walks, meeting at Tesco's, Castle Street, Maesteg from 9am, for a choice of three walks, 16, 10 and 5-miles in length.

The mid-week walk on May 12 will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9.30am for an 8-mile moderate walk at Newton and Merthyr Mawr; contact John/Gerard on 029 2070 2565/029 2070 8248.

On May 14, the start of the popular summer evening walks, meet at 7pm at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry for a 4-mile easy/mod walk at Porthkerry; contact Val on 01446 734925.

Wear suitable clothing preferably boots, carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Latest news from the Fonmon Apiary

APRIL, with its full complement of showers, has come and gone, and all the hives are looking well.

The rain, along with reasonable temperatures, produced an abundance of forage. Dominant of course is the oilseed rape – the bright yellow fields stand out well. This is a nectar source much-loved by the bees, all else takes second place.

Here in the orchard, much apple blossom is appearing which some bees are working. However, until the rape has gone over it will play a lesser role. All of the queens have stepped up their egg laying, and the population of the hives is expanding apace.

This month is considered to be the start of the swarming season, so I must keep a close eye on things if I hope to control it.

Along with the expansion of the bee population, the Varroa Mite population will also expand as their breeding cycle is in step with that of the bees. Trying to keep their numbers down is a never-ending battle.

All the hives have a fine mesh floor, which allows debris and dead mites to fall through into a drawer below.

On a weekly basis, I collect this debris in numbered containers. Each container is decanted into a white enamel dish and with the aid of a large table mounted magnifying glass, I sift through it and count the mites. The numbers can be quite alarming.

All in all things are looking good.

Later this month, Cardiff and the Vale Beekeepers Society will be assisting in the establishing of two hives within the grounds of Dyffryn Gardens.

Information on the progress of the hives will be made available to persons visiting the gardens if they wish it.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

SAITH'S FIRST FOAL IS SOMETHING MAGICAL!

THE Vale-based Saith Stud had its first foal of the year, and it turned out to be a Cremello... blue eyes with pink skin and creamy white body.

ABOVE: Saith Magical Angelica.

Heather Davies and Steve Randall bought a palomino mare a few years ago, and were hoping to breed a palomino with the Saith prefix on it, using a local stallion, Janton Pheonix, from Barry.

Heather has a "soft spot" for palominos and was "slightly shocked" when a cremello filly popped out on May 1.

"Saith Magical Angelica has a special quality about her," said Heather.

Welsh horse racing scandals

ON AND OFF THE TURF with BRIAN LEE

GEM columnist Brian Lee is researching a book about Welsh horse racing scandals and gambles, and would like to hear from readers who may be able to help him with his research.

Brian (72), who has been covering the Welsh horse racing scene in the local and national press for more than 40 years, said: "Some of the stories I will be including in the book are the infamous ringer scandals, such as the 1953 Francasal and Santa Amaro fiasco, which involved Cardiff's Gomer Charles, a well respected bookmaker until he got involved in the scandal.

"He was shot dead outside his Park Place home in 1966," said Brian, who remembers: "finishing my night-shift on the Western Mail and on my way home in the early hours of the morning, seeing a policeman standing outside Mr Charles's house."

Another ringer scandal Brian will be including will be the In The Money-Cobblers March story, which resulted in Crickhowell's John Bowles being warned off for 20 years, one of the Jockey Club's stiffest sentences ever.

Another story Brian will be telling is the 1927 Tenby Races Oyster Maid race fix which, according to National Hunt jockey turned author Dick Francis, was "probably the biggest and most bitterly-resented betting coup National Hunt racing has ever known."

Brian said: "It has been suggested that the gambling coup, which was said to have cost the bookmakers between £60,000 and £70,000, was organised by officials, trainers and others to help race secretary George Lort Stokes, town clerk of Tenby, who had fallen on hard times."

Brian would also like to hear of other betting scandals and gambles that have taken place at point-to-points, pony racing and flapping (unlicensed) horse race meetings, and would welcome any press cuttings, photos and anything else that would help him in his research

He can be e-mailed at leebrian@btinternet.com or telephone 02920736438 or write to 13 Felbrigg Crescent, Pontprennau,Cardiff,CF2 3 8SE.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 564.

● **£2000:** 459363. ● **£500:** 195255. ● **£100:** 225652. ● **£50:** 186502. ● **£10:** 647859, 428691, 768372, 217861, 509049, 538382, 116636, 716290, 843632, 143648, 828300, 638529, 531966, 122931, 510368, 163505, 752955, 661834, 198205, 503158. ● **£5:** 849579, 886502, 374400, 856413, 165122, 777467, 665815, 436321, 410650, 858087, 489508, 617001, 462308, 753965, 158641, 169624, 802430, 674198, 197024, 263331, 652376, 315594, 545606, 107442, 387497, 105086, 617228, 117829, 292420, 890693.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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Barry police cells closure leads to loss of volunteers

THE Vale Council has been briefed about the repercussions of closing the police custody cells in Barry – and these include a bigger bill for council tax-payers.

Although the council, along with officers from Barry Magistrates Court, had objected to the closure, it had gone ahead, with any arrests in Barry now being processed in Cardiff Bay.

A council report said that South Wales Police had not undertaken any consultation with partners with regard to the closure, even though it will affect the work of the council, the Probation Service and Barry Magistrates Court.

One immediate consequence is that the Vale Council Youth Offending Service (YOS), which has to ensure that an adult is present when a young person is arrested, is going to run short of volunteers.

The volunteers are known as 'appropriate adults' and accompany young people who have been arrested to ensure that the young person's interests are represented and their rights protected.

It is the law that all children need an adult to be present during police interviews. As a result, the YOS had eight appropriate adult volunteers who could attend Barry Police Station within 20 minutes of a call out being requested, and the Youth Offending Service paid travelling expenses to volunteers.

The new custody suite in Cardiff Bay means that it could take up to 45 minutes or longer for some volunteers to attend. The Vale Council has been advised that it was likely that some volunteers would resign when the custody suite in Barry was closed. If that proves to be the case, then paid YOS staff will have to fill the gap, with the Vale Council having to foot the bill for overtime and travel costs. The Vale Council is protesting, and has forwarded an 'impact assessment' to South Wales Police, in an attempt to head off the closure.

However, at a recent meeting of the Community Liaison Committee, Chief Superintendent Dando, who will take over the new combined Vale and Bridgend Division, held out little hope of a reprieve.

He said that it was a necessary measure by South Wales Police, in order to achieve savings and balance the budget for 2009/10.

He said that it was his personal responsibility to look at issues relating to the closure of custody suites, and he would do everything to ensure that the Vale would not suffer.

The Vale Council cabinet has now resolved that the Leader be authorised to write to the First Minister in respect of the council's objections and in support of a bid by South Wales Police for an additional settlement, "to ensure that service provision within the Vale would not be adversely affected".

PHILIP IRWIN

PETITION PRESENTED TO ASSEMBLY

'No, to airport road in Wenvoe' say villagers

VILLAGERS from Wenvoe followed up their meeting in the community centre on April 7 against an airport access road by visiting the National Assembly with a petition.

They were met by Vale AM Jane Hutt and the chair of the petitions committee, Val Lloyd AM.

Ms Hutt said: "I was pleased to be able to greet the villagers from Wenvoe, I have been representing as their Assembly Member.

"I know that the petitions committee will now give serious consideration to the petition, before making a report to the Transport Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM."

Conservative AM Alun Cairns said it was time the Minister put people out of their misery and let them know what was plannned.

"The Assembly government's delay is causing uncertainty to so many communities. He needs to make a statement on his intentions.

"With funding so tight and likely to get much tighter, whoever wins the general election, I would suspect it will be difficult for him to commit to any route.

" If this is the case, then he needs to say so.

"I have tabled Assembly Questions asking him to explain the reasons for delay and to advise when he expects to make a statement on his preferred option."

Mr Cairns added: "We were first promised a statement in January and then early spring.

"We are now approaching summer and are no wiser as to his intentions.

"It is wholly unfair to leave so many communities just hanging in the way he is."

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM and petitions committee chairperson Val Lloyd AM, greet the group of residents from Wenvoe who took their petition to the Assembly.

Fayre bargains

THE annual spring fayre takes place at St Pauls Hall, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, on Saturday, May 9, at 2pm.

Stalls include cakes, home produce, books, CDs, gifts and cards, bottle stall and bric-a-brac. Admission is 50p (children admitted free).

Proceeds are in aid of the continuing work of St Pauls and Merthyr Dyfan churches.

Floral society

ON May 12, Barry Floral Society meets at St Nicholas Hall, Barry, for a demonstration by Mrs J Beard of Cinderford, entitled 'What's Next?' at 2.15pm. New members welcome.

ENTRIES SOUGHT FOR VALE BEST KEPT VILLAGE AWARDS

THIS year's Vale Best Kept Village Competition (BKV) is now well under way, and some working parties have been seen, busily preparing their communities by sprucing up their areas to ensure all will be up to scratch during the judging period at the end of June.

Additionally, schools, playgroups and other junior organisations are sending in a record number of applications, with some interesting projects.

Due to the financial support of our main sponsors Cemex (UK) Ltd, and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, prize money is over £2,000.

There are awards of cups, certificates and the coveted D C Jones Cup, plus a plaque to be displayed on the village green.

It is customary to hold the annual dinner in the hall of the previous year's winners. Unfortunately, that of Llanmaes is felt to be too small to host the number attending.

Instead, the Community Council have suggested it be held in the village pub – the Blacksmith's Arms. The chairman and secretary have inspected it and feel it will be quite suitable.

With so many pubs closing weekly, it seemed most appropriate to support the local hostelry. The village pub is often at the heart of a community where inhabitants commune and spirits are both raised and consumed!

If you have not yet entered, contact the secretary, Mr Richard Skinner, on 01445 774820.

If you do not wish to enter the whole village, why not enter the 'Special Feature', for a smaller area that you may have improved or enhanced.

BASIL WATKINS

PICTURED* ABOVE, *left to right: Mr Tim Fowler, BKV committee member, Mrs Christine Robinson, landlady of the Blacksmiths Arms (in Llanmaes), Col Basil Watkins, chairman of the Best Kept Village committee, and Mr Richard Skinner, secretary of the BKV committee.

Older People's champion calls in on Penarth scheme

RUTH MARKS, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, marked the first anniversary of the role this month by visiting the luncheon club organised by the Live At Home scheme in Trinity Church, Penarth.

She said that she chose to visit the Live At Home scheme so that "older people could be a part of the celebrations – and also to get their views across. Listening to older people is very important".

OPPOSITE:
In the photograph are (left to right) Maureen Edwards, Ruth Marks, Dorothy Gardener, and May Winibush.

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Llancadle farmer Dave lifts the 'Walker Cup'

A WELL-DESERVED day off following an extended lambing season proved a good investment for Llancadle farmer David Williams.

Last Thursday, he returned home with the much sought-after 'Walker Cup' after scoring 34 stableford points.

He competed with 46 other competitors and won the monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society at Creigiau Golf Club, kindly sponsored by Cowbridge solicitors Gaskell & Walker.

Julian Kelly, with 32 points and a superior back nine, finished second just ahead of Godfrey Lewis.

Trevor Wooding, who finished fourth with 30 points was also successful in winning one of the many quality prizes supplied by the sponsors when nearest the pin on the one of the par three holes.

Llyn Thomas, sponsors' representative Tosh Taylor, and guest Tom Rhodes were also successful on the other par three holes.

Neil Boobyer took the honours in the guest section with 32 points, just one point ahead of Tosh's son David, who scored 31.

The 'James the Butchers' sponsored longest drive competition was won by immediate past captain John Caines, while guest Rhydian Harris continued his winning ways.

He correctly guessed the number of balls that would come to rest on this immaculate parkland course to win the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whiskey, resulting in £72 being raised for the Heronsbridge Special School at Bridgend.

A word of praise for the catering staff at Creigiau Golf Club led by Lisa who, despite a long interruption to the electrical supply, served up an excellent meal which was appreciated by all the competitors.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for May 28, at Coed y Mwstyr Golf Club, when members will have the opportunity of winning the Shreival Trophy, sponsored by Mr Islwyn Rees.

The draw for the first round of the Nipper Jewell Memorial Knock-out competition has thrown up some interesting games – none more so than David Harris having to play his business partner, Julian Kelly.

President Geraint Davies faces a tough match against a previous winner of the trophy Trevor Wooding.

Griff Morgan also faces a daunting task in taking on Aubrey Bowen at Cottrell Park.

T McC

ABOVE: David and Tosh Taylor, David Williams, and captain Ray Howells.

Assembly funds 'bonanza' for Barry College welcomed

ASSEMBLY Education Minister, Jane Hutt, has welcomed an extra £8.93million for further education institutions (FEIs) and sixth forms in Wales announced by her deputy .

"As part of this announcement, Barry College has received a £100k uplift. Across Wales, the investment will create at least a further 2,500 places for students at a time when more young people and adults are looking for training places," the Vale AM stated.

The figures include £3.65m for FEIs and sixth forms in south-west Wales and £3.54m for south-east Wales.

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM is pictured during a visit to Barry College with the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM (third from left), college principal, Paul Halstead, and chair, Peter Cope; together with local business leaders John Buxton, of the Cambrian Group, Richard Arnold, of the Really Welsh Company, and Bob Lane, of Roperhurst Specialist Plastic & Environmental Engineering.

SWIMMERS RISE TO CHALLENGE

Barry leisure centre has taken part in Swimathon 2009 – the world's biggest fundraising swim.

By completing a challenge up to 5k, the Vale-based swimmers joined thousands of swimmers at more than 500 pools nationwide who were raising much-needed funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care and The Swimathon Foundation.

The Swimathon is now in its 23rd year and almost half a million people have taken part, raising more than £30 million for charity.

Jeary family's 'thank-you' trek for Penarth hospice

STEPHEN JEARY'S mother, Marjorie, sadly passed away at the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth on February 24.

He, his wife Juliet and two sons, Ollie and Peter, remained at her side from the day she was admitted on February 6.

Stephen recalled: "All the staff were wonderful to her and to us throughout her time at the hospice. Juliet, my sons and I remained in mum's room throughout her final days.

"Ollie and Peter slept each night in the relatives' flat. We were provided with food and numerous cups of tea and coffee but, more importantly, the caring staff provided the emotional support we needed at such a difficult time.

"We felt we could not thank them enough but then we saw flyers advertising a trek to Mount Sinai on behalf of the hospice." Stephen explained.

ABOVE: Juliet and Stephen Jeary.

Shortly before his mum passed away, Juliet, Ollie and Peter agreed that they would try to pay back some of the care and support they had all received by taking part in the trek to raise much-needed funds for the hospice in her memory.

Each has agreed to raise a minimum sponsorship of £2,300, which will go directly to the hospice in Penarth.

Juliet and Stephen are both barristers practising from Temple Chambers in Cardiff, and the chambers have agreed to assist them by auctioning items at its summer party in June 2009.

Ollie works for SWALEC in Cardiff which is extremely supportive and he hosts a show on Radio Cardiff each Saturday.

It also supports 'Team Jeary' and hopes to speak to Ollie from the summit of Mount Sinai if that is technically possible!

Peter works for a restaurant in London which has also indicated its support for the trek.

Other sponsors to date include: 7Side Ltd; Destination Skin; Blu Hair Design and Everyman Theatre. They also hope the Cardiff City Team, the Welsh rugby team and Welsh soprano, Rebecca Evans, among others, will be supporting them in raising funds for the hospice.

They are all now in strict training for the event. Anyone who would like to join in the Mount Sinai Trek telephone 02920 426068 or email claire.notman@mariecurie.org.uk for more information or to support Team Jeary go to www.justgiving.com/team-jeary.

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PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

Tips to help you get a new Outlook on computer life!

IF you use Microsoft software, you could have both Outlook and Outlook Express on your computer.

They sound as though they are different versions of the same programme, with the 'Express' version being a cut-down version of Outlook, using only the e-mail element of it.

Not so.

In fact, they come from two different divisions of Microsoft. Outlook Express is provided free with Internet Explorer and is confined to e-mail and a few frills, such as access to Newsgroups and some e-mail stationary designs. It has a single address book to manage contacts.

Outlook is a paid-for application that comes as a stand-alone programme or as part of Microsoft Office suite, and has features to handle organising and scheduling tasks.

Steve knows the differences and explained them to members of Penarth Computer Club, so that they could decide which application better suited them.

Outlook Express has been designed for home users. They generally need only the e-mail and are content with that. E-mails (perhaps from several accounts) are downloaded from the service provider's computer onto the home computer and are stored there.

All archiving and backing up are part of the home users housekeeping.

The single address list can handle contacts sufficiently well for their needs by allowing groups to be set up. Outlook Express can deal with all that as well as allowing in-box rules to help manage and organise e-mails.

Those with more complicated lives need other services that are available in Outlook – which was designed for use by company networks.

Nowadays, there are families that have computers used by more than one person or have several computers used by different family members, and have them networked just like a small company.

Outlook could be the answer. It can do far more. It is a personal information manager <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_information_manager> . All the e-mail stuff is there, of course. It also has available a Calendar *<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calendaring_software> , Task Manager <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_management#Software_applications> , Contact Manager <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contact_management> , note taking <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Note_taking> , a journal <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journal> and web browsing.*

It allows sharing of mailboxes and calendars, and meeting time allocation and more. There are also many third party add-on applications that integrate Outlook with devices and other software (BlackBerry *<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BlackBerry>* mobile phones and Skype *<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skype>* internet communication software for example.)

Steve then wandered around the Outlook screen to show how families could share a calendar to coordinate school outings; football practice; piano lessons or scouting activities - colour-coded to indicate participants or type of activity. The scheduling helps to avoid double-bookings or clashes between arrangements.

Each family member can have an independent address book and contacts folder. If needed, Dad can track his job list in his Tasks Folder and note his progress through the various stages. On the other hand, Mum might find the facility to put up the electronic equivalent of sticky paper notes comes in handy – Sorry, Dad!

Perhaps the most used feature would be to automate the dumping of junk mail and archiving of old e-mails to prevent the computer becoming clogged.

On the subject of e-mails (again), it is possible to arrange for a copy to be left on the provider's computer for access through the web. That would mean that you could access your account from any on-line computer, wherever you might be.

Outlook appears to do Newsgroups as well, but opens an Outlook Express window to do so!

Penarth Computer Club next meets on May 12 at 7.30pm in All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. Kevin will be looking at System Restore and finding or un-deleting files Visitors and new members are welcome. For more information, telephone Howard on 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND (Chairman)

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

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IF nothing in our advert *(below)* catches your attention, remember, at the Vale Volunteer Bureau, we have hundreds of other opportunities available now – and we guarantee to find something to suit you.

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HAPPY TALK FROM PAs BODES WELL FOR PROFESSIONAL PROSPECTS

RESEARCH by Pitman Training, the UK's largest network of specialist IT and secretarial training centres, has shown that the majority of professional office secretaries and personal assistants are happy in their jobs.

In a survey undertaken by Pitman Training, 75 per cent of respondents said that they were planning to stay in the same job in 2009.

When asked if their job was all they hoped it would be, more than 50 per cent said "Yes, it's just as I thought and I'm glad about that."

An additional 30 per cent said their job was actually *BETTER* than they thought it was going to be.

"The fact that 80 per cent of the people that Pitman Training surveyed are happy in their jobs is a great accolade for our profession," explained Linda Barton, chairman of the Institute of Qualified Professional Secretaries. "As secretaries and PAs become better qualified and take on more responsibility, the role that they play within their respective organisations gains ever more respect.

"Professional assistants have a significant impact on the success of their boss and the wider business, so it is gratifying to find out that so many are happy in their work."

Leanne Waring is centre manager of Pitman Training in Cardiff. She said:

"Our training method is designed to be the most flexible and thorough on the market so that professional PAs and secretaries can fit in their personal and professional development with existing work commitments.

"Achieving a recognised and useful qualification is an important element of being a really successful PA."

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Plan your career with the help of Careers Wales

WITH the economic downturn, thinking about your career can be a daunting prospect. Yet in these challenging times, career planning becomes more important than ever.

Whether you're in a job, facing redundancy or unemployed, careful planning will help you make the most of any opportunities that are available.

Even in a downturn, it's not all doom and gloom. New opportunities arise, but it's important to be pro-active.

Put time and effort into your career planning to maximise your chances when you apply for jobs.

Careers Wales is advising anyone who might be worried about job security to think about training and learning opportunities.

Take some time to update your CV; look for any gaps in your training and think about how you can back up your work experience with qualifications.

Free impartial information and advice about careers, courses and training is available, whatever your age or situation.

You can get details about qualifications, opportunities to retrain, self employment, help with your CV, job application or interview technique.

Whatever information or advice you need, advisers are available to help you plan your next step.

They will also be able to tell you about sources of funding, including Individual Learning Accounts Wales: you may be able to claim up to £200 towards the cost of training – depending on your circumstances.

If you're under notice of redundancy, advisers can also tell you about ReAct funding, which may be available to help you retrain.

Call our Learning and Careers Advice helpline on 0800 100 900 (or 029 2090 6801 if calling from a mobile) for further information.

Lines are open between 9am-9pm Monday-Friday and 9am-12noon on Saturday. Advisers can also put you in touch with your local careers centre if you wish to make an appointment.

With a positive and planned approach, as well as seeking support, you can help protect your future career prospects.

Island traders have to wait for that bumper bank holiday

CHANGEABLE weather and perhaps the news that trains would not be running over the weekend, meant it wasn't quite the bumper bank holiday Barry Island traders had hoped for.

A steady stream of day trippers made the journey across to the Island by car but not in the large numbers that the Island has sometimes seen.

Gary Harris, the manager of Finnegan's Inn, said: "It was the worst Sunday we've seen this year.

"I think the publicity that the trains were not running didn't help, because some people thought it would be too congested on the roads with the buses that were being laid on."

Gary said that for the good of trade on the Island, a second traffic route had to be arranged by the council.

Over the bank holiday, the Vale Council did open up a new temporary car park on the headland to accommodate extra traffic caused by the lack of a train service.

Paul Haley, the chairman of Pride in Barry, welcomed the council's actions and said: " I hope that this use of the former holiday camp site will be available throughout all the anticipated bumper domestic holiday season.

"We should never close roads to Barry Island and turn visitors away, when we have overflow car parking spaces such as this.

"There is also further unused land at the Waterfront, which could be used to maximise the potential economic benefits brought by visitors to Barry Island.

"This is a good example of everyone working together to make things happen, which is being encouraged by Pride In Barry."

Network Rail's weekend maintenance work should come to an end in time for the Whitsun bank holiday, when traders will hope for a return to large numbers of visitors.

Romilly pupils' art work goes on show in Penarth gallery

WITH the help of teachers Fiona Rodgers and Jane Mullane, and artists Jean Francis and David Button, pupils at Romilly School have created a stunning exhibition, now on display at the Washington Gallery, Penarth.

Vale AM, Jane Hutt, recently visited the Barry school to see the artists working with the children to create a collage, using paint, acrylic, cardboard – and their imaginations.

Ms Hutt said: "This display of Romilly school pupils' work is a 'triumph' at Washington Gallery. The children have undertaken research in their community at Barry to create stories of people's lives.

"Collages and paintings of the Barry seashore and beaches provide a familiar backdrop to this great exhibition. The children will be visiting the gallery, taking the train via Grangetown from Barry to Penarth."

There is also an exhibition by the two artists 'A Year of Walking Before the Window', who have included the Romilly school display in their portfolios of work on display.

Jane Hutt AM with artist Jean Francis.

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In Business Update

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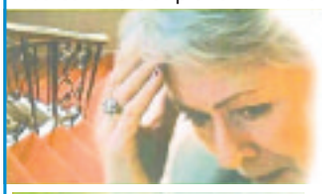

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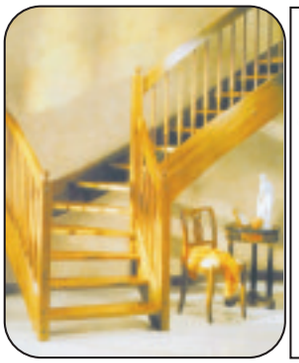

LEFT: An example of the work of GS Joinery. Contact them on 01446 421112.

Riverford has announced its latest 'veg hero' – rhubarb!

GET back to basics, says Riverford Organic Vegetables, and eat the great British veg that thrives in this country.

The award-winning farm has launched a campaign to champion the 'unsung heroes' of the vegetable world, giving a boost to vegetables that are unusual, underrated, tricky to use, or hard to get hold of.

Now is the time to rekindle an affection for rhubarb. Despite being widely used in desserts, rhubarb is actually a vegetable; it's a member of the polygonaceae family and related to sorrel.

It was popular through most of the 1900s, but suffered along with many other of Britain's home-grown, traditional vegetables as supermarkets began to sell out-of-season fruit from around the world.

Rhubarb is easy to grow in Britain as it enjoys cool climates and suffers very few pests. It also packs a flavoursome punch at the table.

"If you want traditional, seasonal produce you can't beat rhubarb at this time of year," said Chris Moruzzi, who delivers Riverford boxes in the Port Talbot, Bridgend and Vale areas.

"Try a simple crumble served with plenty of custard – and later in the season, throw in a few handfuls of strawberries too. Or make the most of its vibrant colour by swirling stewed rhubarb through creamy yoghurt for a super-quick dessert.

"Rhubarb's sharpness also works beautifully with meat and fish, so there's no need to confine it to pudding. It stores well and will keep in the fridge for a week or more."

Riverford, the nation's favourite vegbox scheme, grows over 100 varieties of good value, seasonal produce on its farms around the UK. For more tips on growing and cooking with the seasons, see the Riverford Farm Cook Book, published by Fourth Estate.

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Learn to protect your business, thanks to Vale Women's Business Network

OUR event on May 20 will explain all you need to know about identity fraud, copyright, patents and intellectual property rights. Don't let someone steal your business!

This event will be held in the beautiful surroundings of Dyffryn Gardens, set in the heart of the Vale countryside and only 10 minutes west of the centre of Cardiff.

Non-members most welcome. Guest membership is £6.

Would you like to sponsor one of our events? We can offer you, or your business, an excellent package of benefits. Please contact us for details.

The VWBN is an informal and friendly networking forum for women who live or work in the Vale.

A quote from our last event: "I am in the very early stages of starting my own business, and see this network as a welcome opportunity to seek inspiration as well as share ideas with other successful women in business! This network was recommended through a friend as being very enjoyable, as well as fruitful."

For more information, contact members@vwbn.org.uk

Vale Women's Business Network
May Event
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Wed 20th May 2009
At the Cory Education Centre
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Guests and non members are most welcome!
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Crowds flock to Laleston Point to Point

ABOVE: The sequence of four pictures show (left to right) a rider and horse struggling to stay together after misjudging a fence.In the end, the horse kept upright and they stayed in the race.

TOM David, riding his grandfather Rhys David's grey mare *Tanmeya,* landed the members' race at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

In a handy position throughout, *Tanmeya* took the lead five fences from the finish to win by 20 lengths from *Its Danny Boy,* partnered by James Tudor,with *Merthyrmawr*, ridden by Tom's younger brother Evan, a further 15 lengths back in third place.

Tanmeya, who jumped well throughout the race, was Tom's fifth winner of the season. The men's open race was won by Paul Miles's *Lady Myfanwy,* who was chalking her 18th winner between-the-flags.

Ridden by Carmarthen's Dai Jones, *Lady Myfanwy* jumped the last in front and withheld the challenge of *Minsgill Man*, ridden by James Tudor, by half-a-length, with *Seaforde* back in third spot.

Jones later made it a double when taking the young horse maiden race on Catherine Rhead's *Bless Me Father,* who won by 25 lengths from *Dockbridge*, ridden by Nick Williams.

Pembrokeshire's Lucy Jones, riding her nine-year-old mare *Dancing Credit*, made nearly all the running to win the confined race by 12 lengths from *Passenger Omar*.

Only two horses faced the starter in the ladies' open race and the odds-on favourite, *Grey Kid*, ridden by Jodie Hughes, made every post a winning one, finishing 20 lengths ahead of *Touch Closer,* who had travelled from Worcestershire.

An even longer traveller was John Edwards's *What Of It*, who is qualified with the Quorn in Leicestershire. Well ridden by the owner's son Tim Edwards, 31, in the restricted race, the ex-Irish horse, who was backed from 7-1 to 5-2, beat the pacemaking favourite *Burren Chieftain* by three lengths after taking up the running approaching the penultimate fence.

John Edwards used to be a leading National Hunt trainer in the Herefordshire area. *What Of It* is trained by his daughter Sophie George and was winning for the first time this season.

In the aged maiden, Dai Rees's eleven-year-old *Running Lord*, the oldest horse in the race, proved too speedy for the locally-trained *Musique En Tete* and gave Tenby's John Mathias his 14th winner of the season.

Alice Tudor, the 11-year-old daughter of Mrs Judith Tudor, the hon secretary of the Llangeinor Hunt Races, had plenty to smile about after winning the 138cm-and-under novice pony race on her 13-year-old *Bugsy*. Alice, a member of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, was chalking up her first winner in just three rides.

Only two competitors – *Oscar* and *Tommys Girl*– lined up for the 148cm open pony race and, in an exciting finish *Tommy Girl*, ridden by Jordan Williams,11,beat *Oscar*, ridden by Jordan's brother, Robert who is 15.

The Tredegar Farmers Hunt is holding its annual point-to-point races at Lower Machen on Sunday (First race 2pm.).

There are 142 entries and 45 of these are down to run in the open maiden race. Popular point-to-pointers *Bob Bites Back, Mick's Prospect, Tigu, Chesnut Annie* and *Grey Kid* are all entered.

Brian Lee

ABOVE: Alice Tudor was the winner of the novice pony race on Bugsy.

Photos by MANDY THOMAS *(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)*
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CARDIFF AND VALE SCHOOLS ATHLETICS SENIOR CUP FINAL

VALE ATHLETES CLAIM BOTH TEAM TITLES

Steffan Jones (Bro Morgannwg) finished second in the 100 metres but picked up maximum points.

Leah Grisdale (Bro Morgannwg) in high jump action under the watchful eye of Head of PE, Mr Richard Chidley.

Josh Hill (Llantwit), winner of the javelin and second in the high jump

THE new track and field season opened for Cardiff & the Vale Schools' Athletics Association last month with the staging of Senior Cup Final for pupils in years 11 to 14.

The old Cardiff Athletic Stadium at Leckwith was notorious for its unhelpful headwinds for sprinters and hurdlers. Its replacement, on the opposite side of Leckwith Road and called the Cardiff International Sports Stadium, started on a brighter note with a cloudy sky, mild temperatures and very little wind.

Athletes and schools organisers will hope that those conditions will be the norm for the rest of the summer.

Vale athletes made the most of the conditions, winning 11 of the 22 individual events and, more importantly, claiming both team titles.

Two new Cup best sets were set, both by Vale athletes, and both by girls.

The girls' discus best was set at 24.08 metres by former Barry & Vale Harrier Sharyn Crayford (Glantaf) as long ago as 1997. That mark did not look in danger, despite the presence of experienced year-12 throwers Ayla Phillips (Llantwit) and Sian Balchin (Kings Monkton) until Barry resident Balchin unleashed the final attempt of the first discus competition. Her effort flew out and landed on the 24.51 metres mark.

Brownie points at that point to the leader of the discus officials, Miss Laura Hale (Cowbridge), for spotting that the distance was a new best, and for calling the field referee, Mr Derek Crowder, to confirm the distance.

The second new best came early in the third round of field events, but was not noted by the officials. In the shot, Ayla Phillips, better known as a hammer thrower, opened with a put of 10.19 metres, the first time that a girl has bettered 10 metres in this competition, and an addition of 31 centimetres to Melanie Umbleja's 2001 mark.

Two other Vale girls, both year-12 and from Bro Morgannwg, caught the eye with victories. With no pole vault in this event, Elinor Lewis turned her attention to other events and won both the 80 metres hurdles and triple jump, while her team-mate Leah Grisdale opened her season with a modest leap of 1.40 metres to finish top of the high jumpers.

In the boys' events, Barry Comprehensive year-12 Curtis Matthews, sadly a one-athlete team, was the undoubted star. The Welsh Schools Combined Events International underlined his all-round talent with three wins, claiming the long jump, discus and high jump, all with encouraging early season performances.

Four other Vale boys scored victories. On the track, Welsh under-20 cross-country international Tom Whitmarsh-Knight ran a useful 200 metres as a warm-up and then went on to win the 1,500 metres, while Fred White (Cowbridge) had a comfortable victory in the 400 metres.

Year-11 Dan Clarke (St Cyres) claimed the distinction of being the first field event winner, taking the shot with a respectable distance, while Llantwit year-13 Josh Hill had a six metres advantage in the javelin, and matched the winning height of 1.75 metres in the high jump, but had to settle for second on countback to Curtis Matthews.

One Vale athlete claimed maximum event points although only finishing second in his race. The multi-talented Steffan Jones finished second in the 100 metres, but the winner, Plasmawr sixth former Lloyd Bowen was declared as non-scoring athlete so Jones claimed the maximum individual points (11) for Bro Morgannwg.

It would be helpful if all these Vale athletes could pencil in Saturday, July 4 in their diaries. That's the date that Cardiff & the Vale will be hosting the 62nd Welsh Schools' National track and field championships at new Leckwith and, on their form at this Senior Cup Final, it looks very likely that they will be invited to compete.

Elinor Lewis (Bro Morgannwg) in the 80 metres hurdles

Fred White (Cowbridge) on his way to victory in the 400 metres.

The real icing on the cake came at the end of the meeting. In the past, both Cowbridge and Llantwit have won sections at this early season competition, but neither school was strong enough to repeat their success this year.

Instead, it was Bro Morgannwg who rose to the occasion to claim victory in not one but both sections for the first time – so the Barry school has two trophies to collect at the Track and Field Presentation Evening, which will be held at Cardiff High on Tuesday, September 8, starting at 7pm.

Senior Boys (Years 11 to 14) – 100: 2 Steffan Jones (Bro M) 11.5; 4= James Wiltshire (St Cyres) 11.8; 6 Dan Jones (Cow) 12.1; 9 David Griffiths Llantwit) 12.4; 10 Andrew McNichol Llantwit) 13.2.

200: 2 Elliot Leachman (St Cyres) 23.8; 4 Tomos Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 24.3; 6 Oliver Trotman (Cow) 25.0; 7 Ashley Williams Llantwit) 25.5.

400: 1 Fred White (Cow) 54.4; 5 Elliot Thorne (St Cyres) 57.8; 6 Joel Ferriday (Bro M) 59.3.

800: 4 Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 2:13.2; 8 Rhys Allin (Cow) 2:22.9; 9 Darren Jones Llantwit) 2:27.9.

1,500: 1 Tomos Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 4:27.6; 4 Darren Jones Llantwit) 4:35.5; 6 Steven Earls (St Cyres) 5.19.7; 7 Matt Rowland (Cow) 5.33.9.

100H: 2 Corrie Ellis (Bro M) 15.6; 3 Rhys Allin (Cow) 15.6; 4 Sam Booker Llantwit) 16.6; 6 Liam Wingren (St Cyres) 19.3.

HJ: 1 Curtis Matthews (Barry Comp) 1.75; 2 Josh Hill Llantwit) 1.75; 3= Cory Allen (Bro M) 1.70; 3= Sam Booker Llantwit) 1.70; 5 Ollie Trotter (Cow) 1.70; 9 James Wiltshire (St Cyres) 1.55.

LJ: 1 Curtis Matthews (Barry Comp) 6.11; 2 Rhys Allin (Cow) 5.76; 5 Joel Ferriday (Bro M) 5.17; 6 Sam Booker Llantwit) 5.10; 7 David Griffiths Llantwit) 4.79; 9 Elliot Thorne (St Cyres) 4.68.

TJ: 2 Cory Ellis (Bro M) 11.44; 3 Josh Hill Llantwit) 11.32; 4 Oliver Trotman (Cow) 11.12; 6 Liam Wingren (St Cyres) 10.23.

SP: 1 Dan Clarke (St Cyres) 12.09; 5 Matthew Wilcox (Cow) 10.83; 6 Kyle Paylor Llantwit) 10.65; 7 Corrie Ellis (Bro M) 10.57.

DT: 1 Curtis Matthews (Barry Comp) 33.66; 2 Jimmy Rodd (St Cyres) 30.27; 3 Nick Davies (Cow) 28.97; 5 Seb Vidal (Bro M) 27.13; 6 Kyle Paylor Llantwit) 26.13.

JT: 1 Josh Hill Llantwit) 43.78; 2 Bradley Cole (St Cyres) 37.64; 3 Josh Rowe (Bro M) 36.91; 5 Justin Davies (Cow) 35.61.

4 x 100: 2 Bro Morgannwg 47.3; 4 Cowbridge 48.0; 5 St Cyres 49.2; 6 Llantwit Major 49.8.

Team: 1 Bro Morgannwg 100; 3 Cowbridge 89; 4 St Cyres 79; 6 Llantwit 73; 8 Barry Comprehensive 33.

Senior Girls – 100: 3 Eleri Phillips-Griffiths (Bro M) 14.2; 4 Alice Palmer-Evans (Cow) 14.9.

200: 3 Leah Grisdale (Bro M) 29.3; 4 Heather Jarvis (Cow) 32.4.

300: 3 Savannah Taylor (Bro M) 48.6; 4 Georgia Kemeys (Cow) 48.3.

800: 2 Maddi Edgeworth (Cow) 2:49.3; 4 Savannah Taylor (Bro M) 3:13.5.

1,500: 2 Sabrina James (Cow) 6.19.5; 3 Bethan Heslop (Bro M) 6.38.8.

80H: 1 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 12.7; 4 Kathryn Brown (Cow) 17.0.

HJ: 1 Leah Grisdale (Bro M) 1.40; 2 Maddi Edgeworth (Cow) 1.30.

LJ: 4 Savannah Taylor (Bro M) 4.24; 5 Alice Palmer-Evans (Cow) 3.61.

TJ: 1 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 10.04; 4 Heather Jarvis (Cow) 8.40.

SP: 1 Ayla Phillips Llantwit) 10.19 (Cup BP); 2 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 8.73; 4 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 7.78; 6 Louise Edwards (Cow) 6.56.

DT: 1 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 24.51 (Cup BP); 3 Stevie Martin (Bro M) 18.57; 4 Olivia Hulme (Cow) 16.64; 5 Ayla Phillips Llantwit) 16.28.

JT: 1 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 27.10; 2 Ayla Phillips Llantwit) 25.76; 4 Jamie Treweeks (Bro M) 22.44; 7 Olivia Hulme (Cow) 12.34.

4x100: 1 Bro Morgannwg 54.8; 4 Cowbridge 58.6.

Team: 1 Bro Morgannwg 99; 4 Cowbridge 78; 7 Llantwit 23.

PETER MORRIS
(PHOTOS IAN DIXON)

Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro Morgannwg) winner of the 1500 metres

Cottrell ladies in Texas scramble

ON April 9, 52 ladies were lucky to complete their 12-hole Texas scramble in fine weather before the rain came.

Following a good lunch, Lorraine Pointen-Bell Ladies Vice captain, presented the team prize to the winners Margaret Thomas, Tessa Mathews, Santa Evans and Patricia Haines with a net score of 41.8. Margaret Thomas (ladies captain) presented the Winter eclectic trophy to Vicki Long.

The ladies are now looking forward to a visit to Aberglasney in the near future.

CB

Vicki Long with Margaret Thomas.

ABOVE: The winning team.

Out and About with The GEM

The claws are out for poor Wolverine!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

TEN years ago, Hugh Jackman was a musical actor, gaining critical kudos for his role as Curly in the West End stage production of *Oklahoma!* and an Olivier award nomination to boot.

One outing as the iconic Wolverine in 2000's *X-Men* later, and Jackman became an overnight film star, his performance as the laconic hero earning similar praise.

He went on to reprise the character in two sequels, while also starring in films such as *The Prestige* and *Australia*, but returns to the character that made his name in *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*.

As the title suggests, the film is set before the first *X-Men* film, and shows how Wolverine became the man he was when we met him in that cage at the start of the first film, a story that involves an array of mutants (including Liev Schreiber's Sabretooth and Ryan Reynolds' Deadpool) as well as a character familiar to fans of *X2*, Colonel William Stryker (Danny Huston)...

It seems conventional now that when visiting or revisiting the roots of a character, everything must be as dark and dramatic as possible. When this is delivered with panache and allied with skilled directors and cast, then the results are mightily impressive; just look at *Casino Royale* or *Batman Begins* as evidence of how origin stories can entertain as well as brood.

It's a template that the makers of *Wolverine* (including star Hugh Jackman, on board as producer here) seem to have taken notice of – the only trouble being when you dilute your main protagonist's charisma by placing the weight of the world upon his shoulders, the end result is something quite dull and disappointing.

Naysayers may point out that the three *X-Men* films so far have been somewhat driven by the character of Wolverine, thus making a standalone film somewhat redundant. However, the origins of the character are certainly more worthy of exploration than those of, say, Storm or Nightcrawler; after all, the character of Wolverine has an intriguing back-story that, in theory, should be served well by a film explaining how he became the man we meet in the first *X-Men* film.

Theory, though, doesn't always equal fact, and the fact here is that *Wolverine* is a drab stab at illuminating the clawed one's early years.

The opening half-hour is particularly cumbersome, introducing characters who are barely required for the story and weighing it down with boring dialogue that is supposed to espouse depth, but just comes across as hackneyed.

Things pick up with the smattering of action sequences, which are handled well by director Gavin Hood. A newcomer to the action genre (his breakthrough feature, *Tsotsi*, is definitely worth tracking down) he at least attempts to direct with conviction and gives the film an individual style, not weighing it down with the greys and blues that became the hallmark of the *X*-franchise.

However, saddling him with some shoddy effects work doesn't help, nor does the repetitive nature of the action on display; how many times do Sabretooth and Wolverine really need to fight each other?

The script moves in broad circles, the characters introduced alongside Wolverine being a ragtag mob who you couldn't really care less about.

The exception is Deadpool, who shows more charisma and charm in five minutes than poor Wolverine gets to show in the entire film. The reason Wolverine is so beloved is his belligerent attitude, covering his strong moral compass, a quick wit and his ability to brawl – yet only the latter is truly served by the material, the former seeing too much of the moral compass and less of the reluctant hero.

The performances are not too bad – Jackman supremely comfortable in the skin of Wolverine and delivering a decent turn, while Liev Schreiber's Sabretooth and Danny Huston's Stryker offer up fair villains that you hope receive their comeuppance.

But far too many members of the cast – Ryan Reynolds, Dominic Monaghan, Lynn Collins – are given short shrift by the script, which fails to give the audience anything to hang onto about their characters and, therefore, makes their performances somewhat redundant; a shame given Reynolds' patter is well worth far more than the miniscule screen time he actually gets.

The most annoying thing about the film is how it plays with the continuity of the films so far, and then uses a plot device so mind-numbingly daft to remedy it.

It's a moment that should be treated with real pathos, but instead you find yourself sitting there wondering if a mega-budget Hollywood film has really just used such a convoluted plot device to end the film, and is typical of the film as a whole.

There is a Wolverine film that is definitely worth making, yet with all the best intentions, this one most certainly isn't it.

Verdict – A disappointingly dull film that comes nowhere near expectations, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* is a damp squib of a film. Hackneyed and convoluted narrative turns can't be overcome by some half-decent performances and pleasing, if unremarkable, direction.

Those who deem Wolverine to be their comic book idol will no doubt feel more aggrieved than the average cinemagoer, but even they will be let down by what promised to be a worthwhile film. *Poor*.

Barry U3A

DUE to the May Bank Holiday, the Barry U3A will meet at the Phillip John Room, Barry Library at 2.15pm-4.14pm on Monday, May 11.

Bring an object of interest for a 10-minute talk about the object.

On Tuesday, June 2 the first AGM will be held at the Phillip John Room at 2pm-4pm and subscribing members will be able to vote.

The U3A genealogy meeting will take place at the library computer room (2pm-4pm) on May 19.

Church fayre

CROSSWAYS Methodist Church, Court Road, Barry, will be holding their spring fayre, on Saturday, May 16, at 2pm.

There will be a variety of stalls including cakes, bedding plants, handmade crafts, toys, tombola and a raffle. Admission is 50p. All are welcome.

Trefoil Guild

THE Llantwit Major Trefoil Guild's next meeting will be in the Guide Hut, at 7.30pm, on May 19, when there will be a speaker. ***Telephone 01446 793652 for details.***

The Art of Dr Seuss!

ART CENTRAL at Barry is the first venue in Wales to host 'The Art of Dr Seuss' touring exhibition, supported by the Arts Council of Wales.

Between May 9 - June 6, prints, poetry, advertisements, cartoons, magazine cover designs, secret art and an 'unorthodox taxidermy' sculpture will be on display at the Town Hall venue.

Bryn Hafren girls' reunion

A REUNION has been organised for a class of Barry girls who were in 5H2 of Bryn Hafren Comprehensive in 1979.

It will take place on Friday, May 22, at 8pm in the Old College Inn, Buttrills Road, Barry.

For more information, telephone Judith Richardson on 01446 746241.

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Afternoon Cafe Concert
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Revolutionary Road (15)
More awards for Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio! Tues 12 (7.30pm), Weds 13 (1.30pm, 7.30pm)
Free arts and craft classes
Have a go at drawing, ballroom dancing, jewellery-making Fri 15 (11am - 5.30pm)
Curious Case of Benjamin Button (15)
Affectionate tale of the man who ages backwards Tues 19 (7.30pm), Weds 20 (1.30pm, 7.30pm)
Drawing Class
Thurs 21 (10am - 4pm)
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GLAMORGAN PONY CLUB SHOW OFF THEIR PROWESS IN WINTER SERIES AT TALYGARN

GLAMORGAN Pony Club has been celebrating successful wins at the Winter Series Team Show Jumping held at Talygarn Equestrian Centre.

Starting back in October and running through to April, the club has sent eight teams to all four of the competitions, two teams in each class of fence height of 1ft 6ins, 2ft, 2ft 3ins and 2ft 6ins.

All teams did well; some riders are more experienced, but for some it was their first taste of competitions.

All have done the club proud, and enjoyed themselves thoroughly, improving throughout the competitions.

The 1ft 6ins teams: Chestnuts – Nonnie Meddlicott (*Sophie*), Luke Tidley (*Harry*), Madison Garland (*Zak*) and Adam Dix (*Lucy/Smoky*) with a substitution from Ellie Meddlicott (*Oscar*).

Bays – Tom Brinn, Gemma Brinn, Ellie Meddlicott (*Oscar*), Genevieve Kirk (*Moonie*) with substitutes Harry Bolt, Tom Hill (*Sally*), Chloe Watkins (*Buddy*), Rhys Watkins (*Frosty*), Rhiannon Hill (*Oslo*), and Charlotte Harry (*Smartie*).

The 2ft teams: Roans – Ellie Meddlicott (*Oscar*), Ellie Dix (*Amos*), Madison Garland (*Zak*) and Caroline Lakin (*Melody*) with substitute Bethany Jarvis (*Star*).

Palominos – Alice Pembridge (*Flash*), Genevieve Kirk (*Moonie*), Alex Powell (*Ben*) and Evie Vaughn-Jones – with substitutes Tatum Bolt (*Toby*), Rhiannon Hill (*Oslo*) and Jessica Tidley (*Harry*).

The 2ft 3ins teams: Skewbalds – Lauren Hooper (*Lucy*), Evie Vaughn-Jones (*Belle*), Bethany Jarvis (*Toby*), Alyson Bater (*Missie*).

Piebalds – Caroline Lakin (*Melody*), Ellie Dix (*Amos*), Lauren Hooper (*Solero*), Jessica Tidley (*Bartley*) with substitute Bethany Jarvis (*Star*).

The 2 ft 6ins teams: Greys – Jessica Tidley (*Bartley*), Lauren Hooper (*Solero*), Bethany Jarvis (*Toby*), Bethan Allman (*Ollie*) – Substitutes Louise Edwards (*Mryddyn*) and Ellie Dix (*Amos*).

Duns – Alyson Bater (*Tango*), Evie Vaughn-Jones (*Belle*), Bethan Allman (*Harley*), Lauren Hooper (*Lucy*) with substitute Alice Pembridge (*Mattie*).

Throughout the competition, the teams had four members, three of whom had to stay consistent in order to qualify for the overall championship.

There was stiff competition throughout the classes, with teams from Talygarn, Llangeinor and Pentyrch Pony Clubs, and also Mynydd and Millbrook Riding Clubs.

Overall, there were around 30 teams in each of the series. Our teams managed 10 1sts, five 2nds, six 3rds, three 4ths and two 6ths.

On the last competition of the series held in April, the championship was decided, and the children did a fantastic job on the day, winning all four height classes.

The Chestnuts, The Roans, The Piebalds and The Greys all won the championship for their height.

As a pony club we could not be more proud of them. It had been a great commitment by both the children, their parents and their ponies with several very long days, but everyone pulled together and stepped in as replacements if needed.

A huge thanks must go to Chris Rogers and her team at Talygarn. They did an absolute fantastic job, with great efficiency, humour and above all patience!

The prizes were a great bonus on top of the win, and we congratulate them for a job very well done!

Anyone interested in joining Glamorgan Pony Club, can contact Norma Griffiths on 01446 734687.

JJ

ABOVE: 1ft 6ins champions.

ABOVE: 2ft roans.

ABOVE: 2ft Paliminos.

ABOVE: 2ft team roans.

ABOVE: 1ft 6ins team bays.

ABOVE: 1ft 6ins chestnuts.

Barry hockey players are ready to roll!

HEAVILY-EQUIPPED and ready to roll, Brent Pope, the former Cardiff Devils ice hockey star and founder of the Devils Community Foundation, joined forces with local youth organisation Vibe Experience to provide a fast and furious roller hockey session for the young people of Barry.

The Devils Community Foundation (DCF) is the club's official charity, aiming to "engage, cultivate and re-connect strong relationships within the community of south Wales".

Until recently, the DCF had not ventured to the Vale, but together with Vibe Experience, it ran an exciting session for both boys and girls in Barry as part of 'Splash', a school holiday scheme.

Brent provided all the roller hockey kit, from skates to sticks, and not forgetting the goals. The only thing the young people needed to bring was themselves!

Once kitted up, the youngsters found their feet with some technical and tackling exercises to warm up. Before long, a full match was in progress.

Lewis Briggs, Lewis Darsons, Simon Meades, Geraint Andrews, Gareth Messer, Kieran Eveleigh, Shawn R, Kai G, CJ, James D, Jamie Sugden, Georgia Mitchell, Kazia Hawker, Joe Crane and Callum Cullinane skated and tackled with speed.

Goals were scored, the teams were evenly-matched and the game was tense. After a long, tiring, high speed game, it was a draw!

The day had been a great success with the young people of Barry. One young player said: "I think it's a really good idea, anyone can have a go. It's exhausting, but brilliant!"

Dominique of Vibe Experience said: "We have been very lucky to team up with Brent and the DCF. It offers young people something fun and active for both boys and girls. I hope we can continue to work together."

Vibe Experience and the Devils Community Foundation will be looking to work together in the near future as part of a 'Splash' summer scheme. Young people who would like to know more about activities in their area should contact Dominique at Vibe on 01446 733622.

'BRITTLE BATTING' COSTS COWBRIDGE AN EARLY SEASON VICTORY AGAINST LLANELLI

THE 2009 league season began on Saturday for Cowbridge with the visit of Llanelli Cricket Club to the Athletic field and, thanks to the new covers and new groundsman, the match started on time despite the previous days of rain.

Owing to the unavailability of some players and the fact that Llanelli had been relegated from the first division last season, Cowbridge expected a difficult match for the first league encounter this summer.

Jon Smart, acting skipper for the day, won the toss and chose to field.

This turned out to be a wise decision, as Cowbridge proceeded to bowl out Llanelli for 132 in 47 overs.

This was a really superb performance. Tight, economical bowling backed up by excellent fielding and immaculate catching amounted to a practically faultless display.

The father and son bowling combination of John and Adam Gilbert did the initial damage, supported by Ryan Taylor and Nick Davies.

John initiated the fall of wickets by taking two in his first over of league cricket for Cowbridge, including Law, who is Llanelli's professional cricketer!

He proceeded to bowl his allocation of 15 overs without a break, taking three wickets for 33 runs; a first class performance.

Not to be outdone, Adam bowled 13.1 overs for 42 runs while taking three wickets.

Ryan Taylor, who bowled two spells, ably supported them. His first 10 overs cost him 19 runs with no reward for some economical bowling, but he returned to bowl 3 more in which he took three wickets, a fine reward for his excellent spell.

Nick chipped in with a wicket in his spell of six overs of left arm spin.

Fine fielding complemented the bowling as all Llanelli wickets were captured within the team's allocation of fifty overs. Notable efforts in the field were the catches taken by Andy Finucane (two), Jonty Webb (two), Mike Lloyd and Nick Davies.

Unfortunately, the batters did not continue the exceptional fielding and bowling, as Cowbridge was bowled out for 89 runs in 44 overs.

The least written about the batting the better, as only Ryan Taylor (31) and Mike Lloyd (14) managed double figures in the sorry trail back to the pavilion.

The team was let down once again by that perennial problem of brittle batting in the middle or top order.

Hopefully, the appearance of batsmen missing on Saturday will rectify the situation next week and a respectable total can be achieved.

The Firsts travel to Dafen next Saturday buoyed by this excellent bowling and fielding performance. Hopefully, with the first appearance of the club skipper and a fervent prayer, the batting will improve.

The seconds will be at home and welcome your support at the Athletic field.

DL

BARRIVALE BRIDGE LATEST RESULTS

ABOVE: Tom Kendrick, Irene Thomas and Dave Thomas, three members of the team who won the Alan Garland Birthday teams plaque.

THE latest results from Barrivale are as follows:

Tuesday, April 28 – **1st** Mike Best and Mike Close 62.50 per cent; **2nd** Denis Mottram and Joan Jenkins 60.71 per cent; **3rd** Mick Green and Kay Dyer 60.12 per cent.

Denis and Joan were the handicap winners.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale

For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

Developments in Conservation Areas

Application No: 2009/00397/FUL
Proposal: Proposed enclosed staircase, alterations to dormer window and rooflights to rear elevation and adaptation and alterations to rear single storey extension to form balcony
Location: 9, Charles Place, Barry
Conservation Area: Barry (Marine)

Application No: 2009/00400/LBC
Proposal: Creation of opening to rear building to facilitate off road parking
Location: Church Farmhouse, Church Farm, Monknash
Conservation Area: Monknash

Application No: 2009/00402/FUL
Proposal: Concrete construction garden shed
Location: 2, Church Cottages, Rhoose Road, Rhoose
Conservation Area: Rhoose

Application No: 2009/00404/FUL
Proposal: Replace existing windows with sliding French doors. Raise outside shop front, create decked area with railings to accommodate tables and chairs that already use the existing space
Location: 4, Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area: Penarth

Application No: 2009/00410/FUL
Proposal: Take down existing first floor conservatory and construct new study with verandah
Location: Hendre, Michaelston-le-Pit
Conservation Area: Michaelston-le-Pit

Application No: 2009/00414/FUL
Proposal: Renewal of planning permission 03/00955/FUL - Proposed dwelling
Location: Land off Middlegate Court, Cowbridge
Conservation Area: Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No: 2009/00415/FUL
Proposal: Two storey extension and internal reconfigurations. Demolish existing garage and rebuild a new garage
Location: Montclare, Michaelston le Pit, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area: Michaelston-le-Pit

Application No: 2009/00425/LBC
Proposal: Replace old shop sign to front exterior
Location: Quills of Cowbridge, 52, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area: Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent

Application No: 2009/00400/LBC
Proposal: Creation of opening to rear building to facilitate off road parking
Location: Church Farmhouse, Church Farm, Monknash
Listed Building: Grade II

Application No: 2009/00425/LBC
Proposal: Replace old shop sign to front exterior
Location: Quills of Cowbridge, 52, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building: Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER, 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest

Application No: 2009/00428/FUL
Proposal: Proposed primary care medical centre and associated works
Location: Land north of Hood Road, Barry Waterfront

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way

Application No: 2009/00401/FUL
Proposal: Proposed conversion of existing garage/workshop to form tourist accommodation with double garage and games room/storage over
Location: Middlecross House, Llancarfan

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 14 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 7th May, 2009

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT

We're all little dragons!

ABOVE:
The WCKA LiL' Dragons club in Rhoose recently had a belt grading and all the young ones passed, with help from their coaches, Master Derek Hughes and Mr David Harris. Mr Harris said: "I would like to congratulate David Jones in getting his first belt, and Lisa Grice in getting her LiL' Dragon black belt." Mr Harris also said well done to Dylan (John) Hutton who is the youngest LiL' Dragon at three years old. The WCKA Rhoose LiL' Dragons black belt academy hold s classes at the Rhoose Community Hall, Station Road, every Wednesday at 5pm,

Cowbridge Bowling Club make good start in new competition with victory

IN a busy week for Cowbridge Bowling Club, the ladies played in a new league, the St Fagan's Rose Bowl, which is a two-rink competition, in a home fixture to Whitchurch Hospital ladies. .

They were on both rinks. May Jones' rink of Glenys Davies, Judy Springett and Sue Flower, won 32-10, which included a 'hot-shot' (all eight shots at one end).

Joan Bradley's rink of Diane Purnell, Mary Thomas and Pauline McAllen, won 27-8. For a 59-18 win, a good start to their new competition.

On Tuesday, a friendly with Pencoed was cancelled because of heavy rain.

In the league game at home to Barry Plastics, again played in rain, they just won in an excellent match, 46-44.

Joan Bradley's rink was the only winning rink, 19-8. Sue Flowers' rink lost 13-21 and May Jones' rink only just lost 14-15.

The men had a friendly against Bridgend Municipal, which they won 95-64. This was a five-rink match, and Cowbridge won on four and lost on one. Rink scores: Dennis Snelling's rink won 25-20; Roger Barwick's rink won 17-10; Byron Richard's rink won 18-11; and Norman Wilkinson's rink won 20-13.

The only losing rink was Len Taylor's who lost 15-20.

In the first serious match of the season for the men, A Carruthers Shield match away to Llantwit Major. They lost very badly 46-106. All four rink lost heavily. Roger Barwick's (15-26); Norman Wilkinson's (11-29); Byron Richards' (12-26) and Dennis Snelling's (8-25).

On a good note, the ladies held a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Fund and raised £466.

NJW

Dinas Powys FC suffer a bout of those end-of-season blues

by MORLEY WILLIAMS

WELSH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE	
BRIDGEND TOWN	4
DINAS POWYS	0

IF the pitch in the previous game at Bettws was the worst Dinas have played on this season, then the surface at the University of Glamorgan playing fields at Treforest on Saturday was comfortably the best.

Dinas were in this game for the first 10 minutes , but thereafter they hardly had a look-in, with the Bridgend defence hardly troubled.

The first goal came from when a corner was headed against the upright by Brian Showdery. A Bridgend forward was the first to react with a shot from six yards that the referee judged to have crossed the line before defender Lee Barry cleared with his hand.

Just five minutes later, the lively Mathew De Cae was allowed to run fully 50 yards without a challenge before his shot was deflected onto the crossbar, and Anthony Waters had the easiest of jobs to head the rebound over the line for the second.

The third came when Scott Hillman headed in a free-kick in a miserable first-half for the visitors.

The home side cruised through the second-half, with Dinas only able to trouble keeper Brendan Cropley with a couple of cross shots he palmed over for unproductive corners.

The final goal came four minutes from time when the Dinas keeper could only palm away a corner to Brian Showdery to score from close range.

Dinas go into the final three matches of the season safe in the knowledge that they secured enough points early in the season to avoid relegation.

BETTWS	1
DINAS POWYS	0

A POOR game on April 29 was brightened by an excellent strike for the winning goal – pity it was at the wrong end as far as Dinas were concerned!

The goal came in the 20th minute when a free-kick was awarded to the home side just inside the Dinas half.

The ball was played short for Christian Burge who was given time to turn and hit a 25-yard shot that curled into the top corner for the only goal of the game.

The rest of the game was a dull affair, with neither side looking capable of adding to the goal tally on an uneven and difficult pitch.

The difference between the sides was that Bettws were that bit quicker to the ball, with Dinas looking lethargic in comparison to the last two games.

Forthcoming fixtures: Welsh League Division One, Saturday, May 9, Dinas Powys v Bryntirion Ath, (kick-off at 2.30pm).

For a full list of fixtures see the club's web site: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

Bonvilston winner is ready for Lower Machen

by BRIAN LEE

MORE than 140 entries have been received for the Tredegar Farmers Hunt Steeplechases at Lower Machen, near Newport, on Sunday.

Racing gets under way with the members' race at 2pm and all eyes will be on Edna Hussey's *Bob Bites Back*, winner of the Dunraven Bowl at Chepstow recently.

Horses and riders from many parts of the country will be taking part at this popular annual fixture where the racing can be viewed from a natural bank, or from the centre of the course.

Beth Roberts's prolific winner *Chesnut Annie* is down to run in the ladies' open race and might have most to fear from *Dancing Credit*, who has won her last three races.

Others to be considered are *Mollycarrsbrekfast* and *Honest Endevour*.

Recent Bonvilston winner *Tigu*, owned locally by Chris Bolton, has *Ester Boy* and *Overlut* to beat in the men's open race, while in the race for novice and veteran riders, the front running *Grey Kid* will take some catching.

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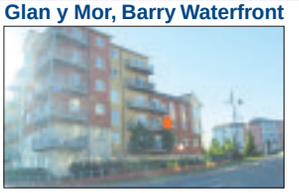

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Family Notices

Elsie Neate

Peacefully at home on Friday May 1, Elsie, wife of the late Harry, loving mother of Ray, Liz and Chris, mother-in-law to Gill, Chris and Kate, much-loved Grannie and Great Grannie.

Funeral service at Ebenezer Chapel, Beach Road, Llantwit Major, 2pm, Monday May 11, followed by burial at Boverton Cemetery. Family flowers only. For further details, contact WA Brown & Son, College St., Llantwit Major, 01446 792489.

Public Notices

Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the
Thompson Street Communities First Partnership Board
will be held at the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU on Monday 1st June 2009, at 11am
for the purposes on considering and if thought fit, passing the following resolution which will be proposed as an extraordinary resolution, namely:

"That following a decision taken by the Welsh Assembly Government Deputy Minister for Regeneration, the Thompson Street Communities First Partnership be formally dissolved and its liabilities and assets be dealt with under the terms of its constitution."

By order of the Thompson Street Communities First Partnership Board.
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Tournament joy for Cowbridge youngsters

Under-9s take title in thrilling final

Cowbridge under-9s went to Newbridge Fields to compete in the Bridgend Athletic tournament.

The first match of the day was against Bridgend Athletic Yellows, who were a late replacement for Penarth.

From the kick-off, it was clear that Cowbridge were a class above their rivals and Rhydian Williams opened the scoring early doors. This set the pattern for the game, and further tries from Elliot Bancroft, Jake Griffiths and Jac Roberts gave Cowbridge a 4-0 half-time lead.

The coaches used the second half to give the remaining squad members an early run-out, but this did not disrupt the boys' dominance.

Max Cunnington, Max Lucas, Bevan Howells and James Guard added to the scoresheet to give the boys a convincing 8-0 victory.

Next up were a very physical Pontyclun side, who had narrowly lost to Rumney in their opener.

The first half saw the Cowbridge boys struggling to get to grips with their much bigger opposition and from a good forward drive, Pontyclun opened the scoring.

Cowbridge then set up camp in the opposition half, desperate to get back in the game. However, excellent Pontyclun defence saw the half-time whistle blow with Cowbridge behind to a solitary score.

The second half began at an incredible pace with the Cowbridge boys moving the ball all over the paddock. All the pressure eventually told and Rhydian Williams equalised with a sublime run to the line.

With their tails up, another score seemed inevitable and Rhydian again finished off a superb back line move.

Rhys Bradshaw added a deserved final try to leave the final score at 3-1.

Rumney were the next opponents and they proved to be a very well-drilled outfit. The first half saw Cowbridge dominating possession and field position but unable to break down a very good defensive line.

As the half-time whistle approached, Rumney put in a long punt from their own line. From the resultant ruck, they turned over the Cowbridge ball and scored in the corner.

The second half began at a furious pace with Cowbridge stretching the opposition defence at every opportunity. The pressure eventually told and Rhydian Williams levelled the scores for a full time score of 1-1.

With the possibility of try count determining the outcome, the boys went into the clash with Newport HSOB looking for a big score.

From the first whistle, they ran the opposition ragged and Cameron Roy finished off a good forward move to open the score.

Quick hands from Ioan Lewis set up Rhydian Williams for the second score. Ioan Lewis then added the third with a quick snipe off the base of a ruck before Evan Williams glided in for the fourth.

The second half continued in the same vein and Bevan Howells dotted down for a 5-0 lead.

Further tries from James Guard, Max Lucas, and Rhydian Williams (2) left the final score at 9-0.

The final pool game saw Cowbridge up against the hosts in a match that would see the losers eliminated.

The Cowbridge boys applied the pressure from the outset with the forwards dominating. The constant supply of good quality ball ensured the talented back line had sufficient space to keep their opposite numbers on the back foot.

Only superb defence from Bridgend was preventing a score, but eventually the cracks appeared and the mercurial Rhydian Williams opened the scoring.

Once again, after numerous phases of play, the backs created an overlap and the magnificent Bevan Howells doubled the lead.

The second half continued in a similar pattern and the decision-making of half-backs Ioan Lewis and Rhys Bradshaw ensured the Athletic were committed to constant defence.

At the final whistle, the Cowbridge boys had prevailed by a score of 2-0, setting up a final against Rumney.

The final began with a similar pattern to the earlier game, with Cowbridge dominating territory.

Once again, after endless phases of play, the tireless Jac Roberts found a gap in the opposition defence to open the scoring.

The second half continued with Cowbridge edging the contest, but with only a solitary try on the board, it seemed inevitable a mistake would lead to the next score.

With Cowbridge only 10 metres from the Rumney line, a long looping pass was sent out, only for the opposition winger to intercept and race away unchallenged. With the Cowbridge back line wrong footed, the Cardiff flyer broke away for what initially appeared to be a certain score.

However, before his opposite number had reached halfway, Elliot Bancroft had mown down his prey. Then, in one swift move, Rhys Bradshaw was in to the tackle and secured a penalty for his team.

The last few minutes were incredibly tense, but nobody was crossing the Cowbridge line. Liam Murphy, James Guard and Bevan Howells all made crunching tackles and the boys held out for a superb 1-0 victory and the tournament was theirs.

A huge thank you goes to all the Cowbridge supporters who set up camp on the touch line and were superb all day. A special thank you to Rhys Davies, William Rees-Davies, Angus James and Patrick Sheppard, who showed what true team spirit is all about by supporting their team mates throughout the day.

Congratulations to Chris, Austen, Stuart and Shep for all their efforts during the day but most importantly, a huge well done to all 15 boys who played today.

Many thanks to Lee and all the Athletic boys for their generous, warm welcome and congratulations on a superbly-run tournament. In addition, thanks to all the officials. The standard of refereeing was excellent for each and every game.

ML

ABOVE: The Cowbridge under-9s proudly show off their trophy after winning the Bridgend Athletic-organised tournament.

Ysgol Gyfun players are in rugby Sevens heaven!

ABOVE: The victorious sevens team with their shield.

IT has been a thrilling, hectic but hugely successful few weeks for the school's seven-a-side rugby teams at all age categories.

Year-10 crowned a fantastic season by emerging as all-Wales champions in the Urdd National 7-a-side competition held recently at Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli.

This follows on from their victory at the prestigious Bishopston Sevens competition in early March.

Tom Perry was voted player of the tournament at Bishopston.

Year-8 and the senior team have also exceeded their previous best and all teams have made huge progress under the guidance of Rhys Beynon from the PE department and his assistant coaches.

Year-8 beat the much fancied Cowbridge team to become runners up at the Whitchurch Sevens, losing narrowly to a very strong Glantaf side in the final.

The senior team have maintained an excellent position at the top of the midweek table, while making strides in sevens competitions.

They progressed to the last eight at the invitation sevens tournament at Llandovery College in March, while progressing to the last 16 at the annual Rosslyn Park sevens, an amazing feat considering that this is only their third year in existence as a senior team.

Year-8 and year-10 also achieved a last 32 place in the renowned Rosslyn Park competition.

In addition to these successes, nine pupils have been chosen to represent the Vale at rugby and former pupil Lloyd Williams from Cowbridge has been chosen in the Wales under 20 squad to compete at the under 20s World cup.

We wish him well and congratulate all boys involved in the sevens squads. Well done!

MEINIR THOMAS

Brave Barry Huskies pipped by Cougars in Valleys Cup

BARRY Huskies finished their Valleys League season with the Cup Final against league champions Kenfig Cougars.

The Huskies welcomed Anthony Trigg back from university and travelled with a full squad.

The Cougars started the game the stronger, using their pace to run the floor as the Huskies played an inside game, attempting to get the Cougars' big men into early foul trouble.

They succeeded, allowing Trigg to score easy baskets. However, strong shooting gave the Cougars a 20-12 end of quarter lead.

Strong shooting from Welsh international Rod Went saw Cougars hold a 33-28 lead at halfway.

The third quarter started with a smaller but quicker Huskies unit. James Newton started hitting outside shots and Jack Dyer ran the floor, scoring most of the Huskies early points.

The Huskies' offence started relying on Trigg, Roberts and Dyer to keep them in the game, but a cynical foul from Piggford saw Dyer leave the game with a dead leg. He did not return to the game.

Chris Lewis stepped up to fill the void left by Dyer and scored six quick points and the Cougars went into the final quarter with a 49-46 lead.

The fourth quarter started close, with Trigg scoring the majority of the Huskies' points.

The Cougars started to wear down the Huskies with their deeper bench, taking advantage of the injury situation faced by the Huskies.

The scores were level with three minutes to go, however Rod Went took the game away from the Huskies with his excellent outside shooting.

Final score 66-61 to the Cougars.

For further team information, please contact Alun Rees on 02920 531531.

Cowbridge girls visit Lords – the historic home of cricket

COWBRIDGE under-15 girls indoor cricket team represented Wales at the Lady Taverners National Final held at Lords.

As the only comprehensive school, they played against Colston's Grammar School representing the south-West, Ikley private school representing the north, Hereford Cathedral School representing the Midlands, and a private school from Brighton representing the south.

The Cowbridge team was made up of three regular cricket players – Bethan Moorcraft who plays for Wales, Lucie Johnson and Rachel Bradshaw. The other seven players are all established sports women who compete in a range of other activities.

Katie Howson, a Welsh under-18 hockey player, Molly Williams, a netball player, Romy Killick (Welsh table tennis), Georgina Jackson (athletics), all rounders Katie Wynne and Laura Howells, and Katie Bradbury (golf and squash).

The opposition teams were made up of cricket players who were all playing regularly, often for representative teams.

The first game against Brighton saw Cowbridge total 46 runs for seven wickets. Brighton went on to score 70 for one. Katie Howson took the wicket, her first ball hitting the stumps. Unfortunately, as a team, Cowbridge gave a lot of wides enhancing the Brighton score.

After a lengthy break and a tour of the Lords grounds, the girls had to play three games in a row. Next was Cathedral School, Hereford. Cathedral batted first and scored 75-5.

Again, Cowbridge gave away too many wides and byes. Katie Howson took three wickets, while Lucie Johnson and Bethan Moorcraft took one each.

Cowbridge then batted. Bethan Moorcraft had to retire after scoring the maximum total allowed (21), with Lucie Johnson and Katie Bradbury both scoring nine. Cathedral gave Cowbridge a number of wides, and Cowbridge finished after eight overs on 64 for four, narrowly losing by 11 runs.

The third game was against reigning champions Ikley. Cowbridge were batting first and Ikley gave nothing away, taking five quick wickets.

Molly Williams scored eight as Cowbridge finished on 39 for 7.

Ikley were an impressive team! Their first two batters both retired after reaching 21, and the team went on to score 97 for two wickets, both taken by Lucie Johnson.

The fourth and final game against Colstons was the tightest. Cowbridge batted first and scored 47 for 5. Again, Bethan Moorcraft retired after 21 then Cowbridge lost some quick wickets and Colstons did not give many wides.

Colstons then batted and up to the seventh over it was very close, but a couple of costly mistakes in the final two overs saw Colstons creep past Cowbridge's score and ended on 53 runs for 5, winning by six runs.

Cowbridge would like to say a huge 'thank you' to their sponsor, Jenson Sports, who helped provide the team with t-shirts and jumpers.

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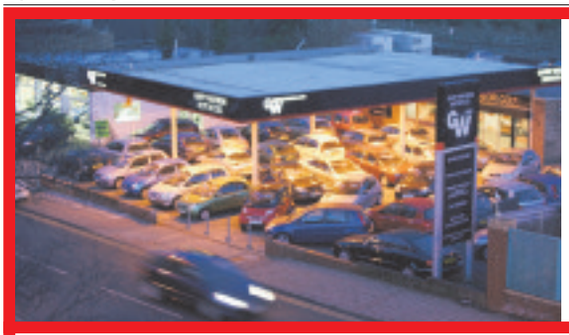

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04 **04 FORD Mondeo 1.8 SCi Ghia 5-dr.** In Stardust silver with dark interior, air con, steering wheel mounted controls, CD, alarm, only 33,795 miles **£4,995**

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08 **58 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec Climate 5-dr Hatchback.** In amethyst purple with tungsten denim blue interior, air con, CD, MP3 connection, Isofix anchorage point, colour coded bumpers, only 9,590 miles **£8,995**

08 **57 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr Hatchback.** In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles **£5,995**

07 **07 FORD Fusion Zetec Climate 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic tango red with onyx dream interior, alloy wheels, chrome front grille surround, front fog lights, trip computer, air con, only 10,870 miles **£6,995**

07 **07 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr Hatchback** in aluminium silver with Madison graphite interior, air con, cd, electric front windows, only 9,120 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-Dr Hatchback.** In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-Dr Hatchback.** In chemical gray with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles **£5,795**

06 **56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback** in tonic blue with tungsten/denim interior, air con, alloy wheels, quick clear screen, cd, front fogs, only 24,250 miles **£6,495**

06 **56 CITROEN C3 1.4i Desire 5-dr Hatchback.** Artic blue, tomy blue interior, a/c, c/l, pas, 5 seats **£5,995**

06 **06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-dr Hatchback.** In onyx black with madison grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, low insurance, only 14,545 miles **£5,995**

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06 **56 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-Dr Hatchback.** In Raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 16v SXi 3-Dr Hatchback.** In pomegranite red with Duke charcoal interior, alloy wheels, CD, immobiliser, power steering, front electric windows, only 3,480 miles **£5,495**

05 **05 NISSAN Micra 1.2 16v Urbis 5-Dr Hatchback.** In Grey with dark grey interior, rear parking sensors, CD, alloy wheels, only 12,215 miles **£5,495**

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03 **03 TOYOTA Yaris GS 1.0L Petrol 5-dr.** In dark green, with grey interior, central locking, CD, only 63,500 miles **£3,995**

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07 **57 VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 16v Energy** In star silver with charcoal interior, air con, CD, MP3 connection, Isofix anchorage points, only 8,810 miles **£7,995**

05 **05 HONDA Civic SE 1.7 CDTi 5-dr Hatchback.** In magnetic blue with hatch black interior, body coloured bumpers, alloy wheels, CD, only 50,300 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Ghia MPV.** In moondust silver with Linea ebony interior, alarm, cruise control, CD, alloy wheels, only 54,290 miles **£5,995**

03 **03 VW Beetle 1.8T 3-Dr Hatchback.** In Platinum Grey with cansasta black interior, alloy wheels, CD, heated seats, front fogs, only 61,695 miles **£5,995**

03 **03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 5-dr.** In metallic Hessian with charcoal grey interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, auto lights, electric windows front and rear, 56,752 miles **£3,995**

04 **04 FORD Mondeo 1.8 Mistrial 5-dr.** In Tonic Blue with majestic ebony upholstery, air con, central locking, CD, alloy wheels, only 61,165 miles **£3,995**

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03 03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 5-dr. In metallic Hessian with charcoal grey interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, auto lights, electric windows front and rear, 56,752 miles.....**£3,995**

05 05 MINI 1.6 One Salt. In Chilli Red with anthracite interior, immobiliser, front fogs, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, only 26,450 miles.....**£7,995**

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08 57 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr Hatchback. In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles.....**£5,995**

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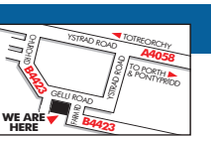

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175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£57.50	£110	£210	175/70R14 Avon CR322	£44.98	£85	£160	175/70R14 Nexo	£30.30	£58	£110
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195/60R15 Bridgestone ER300	£73.83	£140	£270	195/60R15 Avon ZV3	£53.65	£105	£200	195/60R15 Nexo	£37.77	£72	£139
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07 **CITROEN C1 1.0i Cool 3-Dr Hatch Special Edition.** White, 6,503 miles, PAS, RDS stereo radio/CD player, 14" steel wheels **£6,295**

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56 **CITROEN C3 1.1i Desire 5-Dr Hatch Special Edition.** Blue, 19,522 miles, PAS, air conditioning, remote central locking, electric windows, radio/CD player **£5,995**

56 **CITROEN C3 1.1i L 5-Dr Hatch.** Red, 1,534 miles, PAS, remote central locking, electric front windows **£6,595**

06 **CITROEN C3 1.4i SX 5-Dr Hatch.** PAS, auto air conditoning pack, remote central locking, electric windows, radio/CD player **£5,995**

08 **CITROEN C4 Picasso 1.6HDi Plus 5-Dr (5 Seat) Diesel Estate.** Red, 15,789 miles, remote central locking & deadlocks, electric windows, stereo radio/CD player and MP3 facility, cruise control & speed limiter **£12,995**

08 **CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi 16v VTR Plus 3-Dr EGS Diesel Coupe.** Black, 15,440 miles, PAS, ABS, Dual Zone automatic air conditioning,, remote central locking, electric windows, Resolfen alloy wheels, Radio/CD + MP3, electric mirrors **£11,495**

57 **CITROEN C4 Picasso 2.0 16v VTR Plus 5-Dr EGS (5 Seat) Estate.** Beige, 15,603 miles, PAS, remote central locking, electric front/rear windows, radio/CD player and MP3 facility, cruise control, electric heated door mirrors **£10,995**

07 **CITROEN C4 Grand Picasso 2.0i 16v VTR Plus 5-Dr EGS estate.** Silver, 29,000 miles, PAS, ABS, air conditioning with dual temperature setting, remote c/locking, electric front/rear windows, cruise control .. **£10,995**

56 **CITROEN C4 1.6i 16v VTR Plus 3-Dr Coupe.** Silver, 41,845 miles, PAS, remote central locking & deadlocks, electric windows, 17" Resolfen alloy wheels, radio/CD and MP3 ..... **£6,795**

56 **CITROEN C4 1.6i 16v SX 5-Dr Auto Hatch.** Silver, 23,661 miles, PAS, remote central locking and deadlocks, electric windows, radio & single CD, cruise control & speed limiter **£6,495**

56 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i 16v Desire 5-Dr Estate.** Silver, 17,318 miles, PAS, remote central locking & dashboard control button, electric windows, stereo radio/CD player **£6,495**

56 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i 16v Desire 5-Dr Estate.** Silver, 18,544 miles, PAS, ABS, remote central locking, electric windows, radio/CD player **£6,495**

06 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi 92 Exclusive 5-Dr Diesel Estate.** Red, 43,338 miles, PAS, automatic digital air conditioning, remote central locking and dashboard control button, electric windows, 15" Melbourne alloy wheels, radio/CD player **£6,995**

05 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 2.0 HDi Exclusive 5-Dr Diesel Estate.** Blue, 28,813 miles, PAS, ABS, automatic digital a/c, remote c/locking, electric front/rear windows, alloys, radio/CD player **£6,995**

54 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 2.0i 16v Exclusive 5-Dr Auto Estate.** Silver, PAS, automatic digital air conditioning, remote central locking, electric front/rear windows, 15" Melbourne wheels, radio/CD player .. **£6,495**

03 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.8i 16v SX 5-Dr Estate.** Beige, 51,500 miles, PAS, remote central door locking, electric windows, CD player .. **£3,995**

08 **CITROEN C5 1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 4-Dr Diesel Saloon.** Black, 18,500 miles, ABS, Dual Zone automatic air conditioning, remote central locking, cruise control **£12,995**

05 **CITROEN C5 2.0i 16v Exclusive 5-Dr Auto Hatch.** Red, 53,100 miles, PAS, Dual Zone auto air conditioning, remote central locking & deadlocks, Suzuka alloy wheels, 6-CD autochanger **£6,995**

06 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-Dr Hatch.** Grey, 25,000 miles, PAS, air conditioning, remote central door locking, electric front windows, Tornado alloy wheels, RD3 radio/Mono CD **£6,495**

03 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.8i 16v SX 5-Dr Estate

08 CITROEN C1 1.0i Rhythm 3-Dr Hatch

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- 07 Amica GSX 1.1 5dr in Yellow, 5,000 miles £5495
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05 **PEUGEOT 206 2.0 GTi 180 3-dr.** Finished in metallic silver with **black leather suede upholstery,** sports seats, alloys, a/c, multiplay cd, 25k **£6695**
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05 **RENAULT Megane Sport Tourer Dynamique 1.9 DCi (Diesel) Estate.** Met grey, alloys, climate, cd, fsh, 1 owner . . **£4695**
05 **FORD Mondeo LX 2.0 TDCi (Diesel) Estate.** Finished in platinum met, a/c, cd, pas, c/l, e/w, 1 owner, fsh **£4195**
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54 **FORD Focus C-Max 1.8LX 5-dr.** Finished in moondust silver, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, radio, cd, 37k **£4995**
53 **VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Club 5-dr.** Finished in met green, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, **7-seats,** 55k **£3995**
03 **NISSAN Almera Tino S 1.8 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, pas, c/l, e/w, climate control, 43k **£3695**

FAMILY CARS

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56 **CITROEN C4 VTR+ 1.6 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, climate, cd, 24k **£6295**
06 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate T 3-dr.** Finished in moondust silver, alloys, climate, cd, 1 owner, 33k **£6295**
06 **CITROEN C4 1.4 VT Coupe.** Finished in met grey, pas, r/c/l, e/w, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 37k **£4995**
06 **PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 31k **£5995**
06/55 **FORD Focus 1.6 Ghia 5-dr.** Finished in panther black met, alloys, a/c, cd, 1 owner, FSH, 40k **£6795**
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03 **ROVER 75 1.8T Club SE 4-dr.** Finished in met. blue, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, alloys **£3195**
52 **FORD Focus Ghia 1.8 TDCi (Diesel). 4-dr.** Finished in machine silver with **full black leather**, alloys, a/c, cd,s/r, 74k **£3495**
51 **TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 VVTi GS 5-dr.** Finished in met red, a/c, radio, cd, pas, c/l, e/w, 67k **£2695**
Y **VW Passat 2.0 SE 4-dr.** Finished in met blue with **full beige leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, 88k **£2995**
Y **FORD Focus Ghia 1.8 TDDI (Diesel) 5-dr.** Pacific met green, pas, c/l, a/c, cd, 56k **£2995**
Y **MAZDA 323 1.6 GSi 5-Dr.** Finished in blue met., alloys, a/c, cd **£2695**

SMALL CARS

57 **FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr.** Finished in jeans blue met, pas, a/c, radio/cd, e/w, 10k **£6795**
57 **SMART Fortwo Pure 71 Auto**. Finished in black, pas, r/c/l, cd, 6k, only £35 per year road tax **£5995**
07 **FORD Fiesta Zetec Climate 1.4 TDCI (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 42k, only £35 per year road tax . . . **£6795**
56 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 3-dr.** Finished in metallic moondust silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 48k **£6195**
56 **CITROEN C3 Desire 1.4 HDi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in wicked red, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 1 owner, 33k **£5795**
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06 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve** Finished in black, sports seats, alloys, a/c, cd, 37k **£5995**
06 **CITROEN C3 1.1 Desire 5-dr.** Finished in mauritius blue, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 1 owner, 9k **£5495**
05 **MAZDA 2 1.4 Antares 5-dr.** Finished in met grey, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, 27k **£3195**
05 **VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2S 3-dr.** Finished in Mars red, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, 34k **£4995**
54 **RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.5 DCi (Diesel) 3-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, sunroof, cd, 70k. only £35 a year tax . . . **£4495**
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04 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd **£4295**
04 **FORD Fiesta 1.25 Finesse 3-dr.** Finished in forest green, pas, cd **£3995**
53 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique 3-dr.** Finished in red, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 35k **£4495**
53 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Fever 3-dr.** Finished in moonstone blue, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 39k **£3995**
53 **NISSAN Micra 1.2S 3-dr.** Finished in met silver, pas, r/c/l, e/w, cd, 56k **£3495**
53 **FORD Ka 1.3** finished in met black, pas, radio/cd, alloys **£3195**
03/52 **FORD KA 1.3 Style.** Finished in met silver, pas, drivers air bag, radio cass, insurance group 3, 39k **£2595**
02 **VOLKSWAGEN Lupo 1.4E 3-dr.** Finished in black, pas, rear wash/wipe, 67k **£3495**
02 **RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.6 3-dr.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd **£3295**
Y **PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Style 3-dr.** Finished in crystal met green, pas, c/l, e/w, cd **£2695**

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06 **FORD Transit 280 SWB (Diesel)** Finished in white, low roof, side loading door, ply lined, 53k . . . . . **£4895+VAT**
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Munster mash gives Lions coach much to chew on as Blues Cup semi-final also raises some key questions

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

NO doubt Lions' head coach Ian McGeechan will have heaved a sigh of relief that two hugely-contested semi-finals of the Heineken Cup, featuring a clutch of his charges, were safely negotiated at the weekend without further additions to his pre-tour injury list.

Of course, he cannot relax just yet, for there are a few more games to be played before he finally leads his men on to the plane for South Africa, including the Heineken Cup final in Edinburgh on May 23.

However, pre-tour casualties are surely not the only cause for concern as he reflects on the stunning outcomes at Croke Park, Dublin on Saturday and the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, on Sunday – not least the composition of his chosen British Isles tour party.

Take that thrilling all-Irish clash where Leinster hurled the form book out of the window in ruthlessly dismantling the tournament favourites Munster 25-6.

It was a comprehensive victory that saw the vaunted Munstermen surprisingly out-played (and out-thought) forward and back by fired-up opponents who gave them no respite from first whistle to last.

While the match played out in front of 82,300 wildly-cheering spectators was a wonderful advertisement for the Heineken Cup competition, and for rugby in general, the Lions' management may have viewed it with slightly more rueful feelings.

After all, given that the surprisingly outmuscled Munster pack contained no fewer than five forwards earmarked to take on the formidable Springboks, it did not bode well for the far greater challenge that lies ahead next month.

The struggle being lost up front merely served to highlight Ronan O'Gara's perceived frailties under pressure, a matter of concern given that the Lions have opted to take only two outside halves to South Africa. That decision may now have to be urgently revised.

'Geech' will also muse on the worrying fact that the possible Lions' second row of Paul O'Connell (tour skipper) and Donncha O'Callaghan were eclipsed by their opposite numbers in the white heat of battle.

Meanwhile, in contrast, the man controversially rejected as captain, Brian O'Driscoll, removed any doubt over *his* assured Test place by leading from the front with an inspiring man-of-the-match display in the Leinster midfield.

On Sunday, came the dramatic events of the other semi final at the Millennium Stadium where Cardiff Blues and Leicester Tigers fought almost to a standstill in front of 44,312 rapt spectators.

Errors and penalties there were in plenty on both sides as the pendulum of fortune swung, though the Blues were fortunate to go in at half time just 12-13 down through two penalties each from young Leigh Halfpenny and Ben Blair.

Tigers had replied with a converted try and two penalties, but missed three other penalties that could have opened an unassailable first half gap.

Immediately after the resumption, Leicester forged ahead with a converted try and when they followed this with two more penalties to make the score 12-26 in their favour, it seemed all up for the Blues, even after the Midlanders received two yellow cards and, for a few minutes, were even down to 13 men.

With time running out to the final whistle, the capital team remembered how they had won their way to the semi-final and ran in two tries in four minutes through Jamie Roberts and Tom James. Both were converted by Blair (making amends for an otherwise lacklustre display at fullback).

With the score locked on 26-26 after extra time, and with players going down with cramp in scenes more akin to Wembley, the stalemate was to be finally settled by a penalty shoot-out, culminating in an unprecedented 'sudden death' climax.

In a cruel twist of fate, the incomparable Martyn Williams was the luckless one who watched with dismay as his effort sailed wide of the uprights. Leicester number 8 Jordan Crane then slotted over to send his team in to the 2009 Heineken Cup final against Leinster in the most unsatisfactory of circumstances.

While in truth the English giants arguably had the edge overall, there must surely be a better way to decide a rugby match of such magnitude (not least financially) than unfairly placing the onus on non-kicking forwards who are simply not equipped for this high-pressure situation.

If a replay is not possible, the Heineken competition organisers should allow the shoot-out to be decided by a stipulated number of recognised kickers in the two teams, rather than risk a result that could be both unfair and unjust.

The match did at least give Ian McGeechan the satisfaction of seeing all of his Blues contingent acquit themselves well – in particular, Jamie Roberts and Halfpenny.

While Leicester has so far dipped below the Lions' radar, McGeechan could not fail to have been impressed by another man of-the-match performance from rugged forward Tom Croft, particularly in the light of the Munster mash by unfancied Leinster.

Who knows, that might yet prompt a telephone call not only to Leicester, but to a certain Ryan Jones, another strange absentee from the selected Lions' party.

COWBRIDGE RFC ARE DENIED BY DERI AT THE VERY END

COWBRIDGE RFC welcomed Deri to the Athletic Field on Saturday and in another entertaining game between the two sides, Deri emerged the victors by 12-14.

Cowbridge brought a first half lead of 6-0 to the half way point after two penalty kicks by Ed Lakin, playing at inside centre.

Lakin and co-centre Dai Roper needed to be on their game since Deri appeared to have a strong running centre pairing.

Harry Davies at outside half made a number of excellent tackles to stop promising Deri attacks.

Second row Jamie Bennett, who had a good game in the lineout, was sinbinned for preventing a quick tap penalty, and moments later Deri's full back was also shown a yellow card for not releasing after a tackle. Both were restored to play by the interval.

In the second half Luke Adams came on at hooker for Idi Hamner while Tom James replaced Rich Howson at No 9.

Both Hamner and Howson had shown up well in the first half.

Cowbridge increased their lead with another Lakin penalty, given for obstruction.

Deri's outside centre made a break up the left wing, and when tackled, passed inside to his centre partner to score a try that he also converted.

Just a few minutes later the same player received the ball as Deri broke to the left and he went through the gap to get his second try that again he converted.

Lakin responded with a 40-metre penalty to close the gap to 12-14.

Ian Overton set up some lovely counter attacks from full back, one mazy run over 50 metres looked as if it was going to end at the try line.

With just eight minutes left Deri's hooker was sent off for stamping. Cowbridge kept up the pressure with a series of scrums on Deri's 5 metre line but Deri held them out.

In the last two minutes Ian Overton again ran out of defence, passed to wing Dave Ornsby who released Tom James up the left touchline. As he chipped over the last man he was obstructed which resulted in a sinbinning but no penalty try.

Cowbridge spurned the penalty kick and tried to keep the ball alive but the final whistle went without a further score .

If Cowbridge had won Deri would have little cause for complaint, but equally Deri's victory was well deserved particularly since they scored two tries.

Although this was a defeat there had been many positives.

Youngsters Luke Boys and Zak Mcpherson, both of whom played the whole game, had again been outstanding.

Tom James second half performance had also been excellent, demonstrating his slick service to Harry Davies and strong running.

Luke Denham had scrummaged particularly well.

Dan Wilcox on the wing showed his continuing improvement.

At the final whistle the former players sponsoring the game had a number of players to consider for man of the match.

In the end it came down to No 6 Luke Boys and No 10 Harry Davies, with Boys just edging out Davies to get the award.

Today (May 7), Cowbridge play Hirwaun at home in the last game of the season. Kick-off is likely to be 6pm but please check with the club. All support would be most welcome.

This Saturday the Veterans tour heads off to a destination known only to the two Johns, Powell and Griffiths. A great time should be had by all. Don't forget your flat caps and Dickie bows!

Many thanks to all the players who have put their bodies on the line this season, and to captain Birchenough for his total commitment to the cause.

Thanks too to coaches Kevin Mably and Dai Breed and to physio Beth Jones, and her very able deputy last Saturday.

Thanks to John David of Pontyclun for his comments that managed to spice up the season as well as giving Pontyclun some free publicity. Finally thanks to the GEM for their coverage.

RV/RK

Cowbridge girls visit the home of world cricket

The Cowbridge girls cricket team enjoyed playing at Lords recently.
Turn to page 26 to find out how they got on.

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